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# Wolverine Celebrates 100th Year Of 'Grand'

The Roaring Grand, with the nation's best two, three and four-year-old pacers and trotters, moves into Wolverine Raceway Monday for a two week celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Grand Circuit.

Speedy Crown, winner of this year's Hambletonian, trotting's counterpart of the Kentucky Derby; Albatross, the year's most outstanding three-year-old pacer with 14 straight victories; Hoot Speed, Quick Pride, A.C.'s Orion, Kentucky, Strike Out, fastest two-year-old pacer with a time of 1:58; and Song Cam, unbeaten juvenile trotter with nine wins in a row...all are expected to perform during the celebration.

Incidentally, the program starts Monday and continues through Saturday, Sept. 18.

**THE RICH STAKES** program opens Wednesday, Sept. 8 with the renewal of the \$25,000 Matron for three-year-old trotters and continues for eight successive nights.

That's the most stakes ever put together in such rapid fire order in this part of the Midwest.

Just to add a bit of frosting to the cake, Wolverine will present its "Good Ol' Times" program next Friday (Sept. 10) in conjunction with the 25th revival of the ancient Motor City Pace.

A year ago the old times night attracted the largest harness racing crowd in Michigan history with 19,715 passing through the turnstiles to wager an all-time high Wolverine record of \$850,982.

Actually, the Roaring Grand portion of the two-week celebration doesn't begin until Wednesday (Sept. 8) but what a start...the \$25,000 Matron three-year-old trot that brings Speedy Crown to the attention of area fans for the first time.

Driver-Trainer Howard Beissinger called Wolverine Racing Secretary Bill Connors

earlier in the week to report that his Hambletonian champion would arrive over the weekend and workout on the big mile track Monday.

Naturally, he is the early choice, just as he was in DuQuoin, Ill., and that's as it should be since he'll have most of the same list of challengers.

Castleton Farm's Hoot Speed, who beat Speedy Crown earlier in the season, will be on hand as will Billy Haughton's A.C.'s Orion, Stan Dancer's Quick Pride and Savoir, who had a 2-4 finish in the two heats of the rich classic.

Aged trotters move into the spot light Thursday for the Merchants and Manufacturers stake which has an estimated value of \$25,000 and goes two heats over a mile.

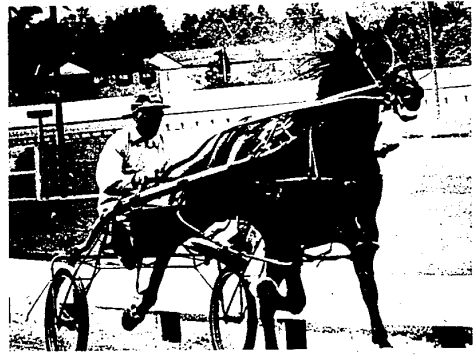
**THEN COMES "Good Ol' Times" and the Motor City Pace on Friday (Sept. 10).** It will be a night when Wolverine rolls back the prices to the good old days.

There'll be hot dogs for a dime, admission to the grandstand for 50 cents, pop, ice cream and popcorn for a nickel. All of the prices that go back to the turn of the century.

And there'll be the renewal of the historic Motor City pace with a purse of \$25,000 and an anticipated entry of 20. Should the entry force two eliminations, which is probable, then the first five finishers in each will come back for the championship finale.

And that's just the start of a celebration that finds: Monday, Sept. 13—Matron for two-year-old trotters for \$12,500; Tuesday, Sept. 14—Matron, two-year-old pacer for \$12,500; Wednesday, Sept. 15—Matron, four-year-old pacer, \$40,000; Thursday, Sept. 16—Matron, four-year-old trot, \$40,000; and Friday, Sept. 17—Matron, three-year-old pacer for \$25,000.

The last mentioned brings Albatross to town and gives fans a chance to see the successor to Bret Hanover.



ALBATROSS, the newest "wonder horse" of the standardbreds, will perform before Detroit area and Michigan harness racing fans at Wolverine Raceway during Grand Circuit week. The three-year-old has a string of 14 straight victories, a clocking of 1:57 and is a prohibitive favorite in the Little Brown Jug slated for late September in Delaware, O.

## Larry Snyder Heads For New Jockey Honors

In 1969, Larry Snyder set an all-time Michigan riding record by winning 146 races in 90 days at the Hazel Park Race Track. The way he is going these days, Snyder could shatter that record in the thoroughbred meeting which will continue through December 18 at Hazel Park.

In the first 24 days of the meeting, Snyder has gone to the post 158 times with 41 winners, 27 show horses and 22 that placed. If he can continue that pace, he will account for 163 decisions in the first 90 days.

If he maintained that winning percentage for the additional 30 days at the track this year, he could wind up with a staggering total of 204 victories.

HE HAS a long way to go but he is on his way. He has already had five days at Hazel Park this season in which he has won three races, and one afternoon on which he won four.

Only twice in the first four weeks has he failed to make it to the winner's circle at least once in the afternoon.

Durability and limitless energy are Snyder's great assets. He has ridden an average of almost seven races daily. Snyder always comes to win. He does his best every time the bell rings. He never beats himself. His test of finishing in the money better than 50 per cent of the time points up his high consistency.

"I'm getting some live horses," smiles Snyder. "No jockey can win if he doesn't have enough horse under him."

There is more to it than that, of course, but Snyder is never a man to boast. The 29-year-old Toledo (Ohio) native remains one of the most modest stars in sports' big time. His success has never gone to his head.

If Snyder wins the riding championship this year — and there's nobody close to him now — he will become the first jockey to take the title four times in his career.

He won the riding honors in 1966, 1969 and 1970, besides finishing second in 1967 and 1968.

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More than a quarter of a million strong, Metropolitan Detroit's vast army of bowlers will move to the firing line this week to open what has all indications of being the best season of all time.

For the first time the army will include more than 100,000 women and there will be approximately 50,000 youths to help write a new page in bowling history.

All of the firing lines in

## By George Maskin observing sports

So our old folks don't know what it's all about in this world?

Now, come on kids, give us a little break once in awhile.

We do know that it's important when a jam arises, which affects you, we do something about it — and quickly.

Disagree?

**WELL, HOW ABOUT** what happened in the Farmington school district this past week or so? The millage vote failed. The school board and the superintendent said no sports, no band, no to a lot of other things.

There was a variety of reasons why the vote failed. Some folks simply couldn't stand another tax hike. Others were mad at the school board. Some felt, who needs prep sports?

But when it was all said and done, guess what some folks who had voted "no" at the polls did?

Sure, they went right out with others and started a fund raising campaign to make certain that Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison High will have football, basketball, cross country and gymnastics.

That there'll be school papers, cheerleaders, bands and other extra-curricular activities.

How are they making all this possible? Easy, by digging into their pockets and forking across in many cases more money than they would have doled out to the tax man.

"We weren't thinking of ourselves," one father told us. "We were thinking about the kids and how it might be at Farmington or Harrison or North Farmington if they didn't have their teams."

"We were thinking of how our kids would react if they met kids from schools in other districts...what possible effect it might have in the schools our kids attend and things like that."

And, then the dad paused.

"Do you suppose," he continued, "that the kids really will appreciate this...at least right away?"

**HOPEFULLY, THE YOUNGSTERS** will, but there is no way to tell the way some tend to act on various issues.

I know as well as the other guy what with one teenager in the family and a couple of others slightly removed from the class into what they call young adulthood.

If we as old folks are guilty of anything, it's just that we think too much about our kids and most of us want to do everything possible for them.

Maybe that's spoiling them, like offering them the use of a car as soon as they hit their 16th birthday in our so-called more affluent neighborhoods.

But one thing we seem to all want for our kids is the best education possible. Why, otherwise, would we favor millage votes more often than we reject them?

Why do we moonlight at extra jobs...why does mom work, too...in hopes of stashing away a few extra dollars so that when the kids finish high school, we can do something about footing their ways through college?

This is why the good citizens banded together so swiftly last week when they sensed what really had hit their schools and that the biggest losers would be the students of the Farmington district, and nobody else.

If the kids of today fail, what kind of future is there for this country...for this world?

One trusts that the kids realize this and understand what their old folks really are trying to do.

No, we can't be all wrong, really.

## It's PP&K Week, So Says Milliken

Gov. William Milliken has declared this week PP&K week in Michigan. Participants punt, pass and kick (PP&K) is a football youth program in which more than 20,000 Michigan boys enrolled last year.

The program, is co-sponsored by Ford dealers across the country and the National Football League. Now entering its 11th year, PP&K has attracted more than 7,000,000 boys — including more than a million last year.

REGISTRATIONS for the 1971 PP&K competition are being accepted through Sept. 30 at participating Ford dealerships in Michigan.

Participants punt, pass and kick against boys their own age. Any boy aged 8 to 13 is eligible to register. He must be accompanied by one of his parents or his legal guardian. There is no entry fee.

Scoring is based on distance and accuracy.

Twelve national finalists, two in each of the six age groups, will compete for the championship during half time of the NFC-AFC Super Bowl game in New Orleans, Jan. 16.

Observerland are filled to overflowing and, in many cases, there will be as many as five leagues a day to meet the demand.

As an example there are so many senior citizens in the ranks that Livonia Lanes, where the league got its start, has been forced to organize the second circuit. As a result they'll be bowling in both morning and afternoon.

At Merri-Bowl the story is the same. Doris Maltby reports that she has many more requests than she can fill and that it is going to be a good trick if they can park them in.

There will be some other changes along the line.

The Livonia Lanes Classic, long a fixture on the bowling scene on Monday nights, has passed from view and the bowlers now will compete in the Whirlwind League.

**THE BOWLERS** turned back the pages of their time of their lives celebrating "The Good Old Days."

Many establishments in Observerland had turnaway gatherings during the afternoon and evening when the bowlers appeared in the outfits they wore 25 years ago and paid the same price — 25 cents a line.

In some cases the bowlers waited four hours for their turn on the approaches — and this was the only thing different than what we now know as the good old days.

**THERE ARE** rumors around Westland Bowl that Tony Lindemann, former captain of the champion Strick team, has just about changed his mind on retiring.

At the close of last season he gave up the Alexander-Horning franchise in the All-Star Classic and announced that he was about to become a spectator.

Now, it is rumored that he will be back in the Westland Classic where he can again become a rival to Eddie Lubanski who is joining the Ira Wilson team.

**THERE IS ONE** bowler in the area who is not looking forward to the coming season with any degree of delight.

She is Ann Setlock, instructor at Garden Lanes and the top average woman bowler in the state's year ago.

Sometime during the summer Ann suffered a pinched nerve in her back and is now under a doctor's care.

"It can still bowl," she says, "but it is with a bit of a strain. I certainly am not looking forward to some of the painful nights I am sure to suffer."

With Ann on the disabled list, her rivalry with Elvira Toepfer for the top average title will be broken up. Ann finished second to Elvira for four years before she finally landed on top last year.

Elvira, now a grandmother, showed some of her skill last weekend in Flint where she finished in 11th place in the Women's National Pro Tournament.

Elvira, now a grandmother, showed some of her skill last weekend in Flint where she finished in 11th place in the Women's National Pro Tournament at South Lanes. She was the only Michigan bowler to cash and came away with \$500.

**THERE'LL BE** a new battle front for the bowlers in Observerland within the next few weeks.

Woodland Lanes, a 20-lane establishment, is about ready to open. It is located on Plymouth Road, just a bit west of Farmington Road.

**AS A TRIBUTE** to little Tim Wilson, who brought Livonia its first national individual bowling championship last week by winning the 9-11-year-old bracket in the Physical Fitness tournament in Boston, they are going to hang a picture of him in Livonia Lanes.

He will be the first bowler so honored in Observerland.