

GEORGE BEAHON
**"In This
 Corner"**



On the odd chance that you missed it, there was this headline in a morning daily announcing: "Morgan Cleans Up at Finger Lakes."

The story was about a gentleman and preacher whose work includes janitorial chores at the upstate New York race track. It seems he was the only human in the house on this particular day to pick the results of the ninth race in 1-2-3-4 order. Superfecta! For his research and his \$2 investment, he received a check for \$44,000 and change.

The hit made noise waves even on the networks, with Monitor and others doing taped telephone interviews with Morgan, who acknowledged his inspiration came from above; that he didn't owe anyone a nickel; that he would not change his life style; that his church would benefit from the blessing.

Superfecta betting was barely a few weeks old at this separation center for money, and only a day or two before Morgan's bonanza, when the track's general manager, John O'Keefe, devised a newspaper ad advising the sport-

ing public "You could win \$45,000 for \$2 at Finger Lakes." O'Keefe didn't miss by much, in timing or in dollars. He had cleverly calculated the potential Superfecta pool for a Saturday at about \$54,000, deducted the takeout, and came up with the "button" promotional prediction for a payoff for only one winner.

When Superfecta landed in July, the very first ninth race jackpot came back \$29,000 and change for one winner on a weekday. This gimmick, along with three Exactas (the easy ones, where you pick 'em only 1-2) has boosted both attendance and handle at the 11-year-old track, which only 18 months ago was bailed out of bankruptcy.

Why the gigantic payoffs? Full fields, for one, a tribute to the racing secretary, Bennett Park, who has some strange looking and funny running animals to work with. One track official, who for obvious reasons prefers not to be identified, said business would decrease, naturally, after Labor Day, and conceded the track would lose some horses to raiding parties from other wheels. "But one thing is for certain," he said, "the tracks that grab horses from our barn area will not be improving their quality of racing."

This is relevant to the Superfecta payoffs. It also recalls a line by novelist Henry Clune, who took his first look at Finger Lakes back in 1962. Henry had spent many an August watching the elite of thoroughbreds campaigning at Saratoga, for some of the richest stakes prizes in racing history. On opening day at Finger Lakes, he watched the athletic contests for horses. "They don't need to bet on where these horses finish," deadpanned Clune. "They should put up prices on which ones come back alive."

At the expense of laborious research,

it now is possible to explain the Gargantuan payoffs in the Superfecta, or simply why it is so difficult to pinpoint a 1-2-3-4 finish. And why so many other king-sized telephone numbers decorate the board after so many other races.

On a given day in July, an analysis of nine races produced these figures. Start with the better races. In the sixth, nine horses were entered, with a history of 95 previous starts in the year 1972. They were eligible for not having won more than two apiece all year. Seventh race: Ten entries, with 43 starts in '72. They qualified because none of them had finished first, second or third all year. The eighth: Eight horses with 87 starts over the last two years, with the requirement that none ever had won more than two in its lifetime.

Now for that balance of this particular card:

First race: Nine horses, with 31 total starts for 1971-72 — but no wins for the two years.

Second: Thirteen entries, for 128 starts in two years. Total wins? None.

Third: Ten entries, for 31 starts in two years. Total wins? None.

Fourth: Nine entries, for 152 starts in 1971 and '72. Total wins? None.

Fifth race: Nine entries, for 64 starts in '71-72. Total wins? None.

Ninth race: (Superfecta!!!): Fifteen entries, for a total of 225 starts in '71-72. Total wins? None.

The track hasn't been built yet that puts together more evenly matched racing. Come to think of it, \$44,000 and change for \$2 may not be such a good price after all.

Black Caucus Plans Party To Introduce Fr. Farier

Rochester's Black Lay Catholic Caucus is throwing a party to introduce Father Stanley Farier, new pastor of St. Lucy's, to the community he will serve. The party is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 10, 3 to 6 p.m. in the parish hall.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Mayor Stephen May will attend and extend greetings to the new pastor at 4 p.m.

Seven hundred invitations were sent to all the pastors of the diocese and to clergy of other denominations. Some 2,000 flyers

were used to invite all neighborhood residents.

Mary De Rouen, chairman for the reception, said, "Father Farier is great and he doesn't want a stigma that he will be only interested in black people. He is very knowledgeable and interested in all phases of life and we want people to know it."

The area immediately around St. Lucy's is only 1% Catholic. Mrs. De Rouen continued, "but this is Father's immediate concern so we will go door to door the day before to invite all the neighborhood."

Padre Pio Group Marks Anniversary

The monthly prayer meeting of the Padre Pio Prayer Group will mark a significant date Wednesday, Sept. 20.

The date is the 54th anniversary of the stigmata of the late Padre Pio, a Capuchin monk, whose case for canonization is being advocated in the Church.

The prayer group meets at St. Philip Neri Church, the third Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. to pray for the sick and suffering.

Padre Pio, born Francesco Forgione, in Pietrelcina, Italy, bore wounds similar to the wounds inflicted during the crucifixion of Jesus.

He was ordained in 1910 and died in 1968. He gained repute throughout Italy during his lifetime for his abilities to work cures and conversions and for his gift of clairvoyance.

He was also the founder of The House for the Relief of Suffering, an internationally funded hospital for all races, creeds and political persuasions in the Italian province of Foggia.

Holy Angels Guild Plans Card Party

Mrs. Fred L. Trotter, president of Holy Angels Guild recently announced that the guild will open the 1972-1973 year with a card party Wednesday, Sept. 20, at Cutler Union, 7:30 p.m.

The chairmen of this function are Miss Helen O'Harrigan and Mrs. Eric P. Smith.

Assisting them are Mrs. William C. Foley and Mrs. Glen R. Perkins, tickets; Miss Winifred Kelly, special project; Mrs. Francis J. Keogh and Mrs. Leonard P. Oliver; Mrs. Sylvester J. Zicari and Mrs. Nicholas Colarmarino, refreshments; Mrs. Edward Dickes, hostesses; Miss Louise M. Randazzo; publicity; and Miss Josephine Flora, cards and talies.

The proceeds from this function will be given to Sister Francis of the home to be used towards beautifying the grounds, and for security measures.

Mrs. Trotter also announced that the first meeting of the members of the guild will be a gourmet dinner meeting to be held Monday, Sept. 25, at Holy Angels Home.

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