

GEORGE BEAHON

### "In This Corner"



These are unhappy times in the world of horse racing, particularly the runners, rather than the harness racing areas. The flats are closed or closing down in the cold weather sectors. The trotters will go until a few hours before Christmas Eve, so some of the patrons can get stuck with paychecks until a day or so after New Years. But for the flat racing people, the bad times are ahead. Either closed, or nearing getaway days in the east, north, and mid-west.

For the mutuel clerks who do not follow the sun, it is a slow but peaceful interim, wherein the unemployment insurance checks will abide for many, to be supplemented, in many cases, by Social Security. (Did you ever wonder why so many track employes work the minimum 21 weeks? To be eligible for unemployment insurance, that's why.)

There is another element of track "personnel" hurting more than ever, and not just because of the seasonal closings. I speak of the professional touts, who do not use Social Security cards nor bother with IRS in pursuing their way of life.

Thanks to, or no thanks to (in the case of the tout) the TRPB, 1972 has been a miserable season. Because of the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, a continent-wide investigative agency operating under the flag of Thoroughbred Racing Associations, a singular organization with a plural name. Its members are not people but race tracks.

John Day, historian and director of the TRA Service Bureau, is the authority for some of the bad things which have happened to touts and would-be swindlers in recent times.

His records, incidentally, go way back to when George Washington (yes, THAT president) was declaring his race track betting losses for the benefit of Internal Revenue. It seems GW was better at cards than at handicapping horses. So his report itemized travel costs, charitable donations, entertainment and this conclusion: "Cash lost on races 1 pound, six shillings; and from all this deduct 13 pounds won at cards."

Madison Avenue has no monopoly on scientific jargon designed to make a pitch. Through direct mail this year, one con artist, for a modest fee of \$250, offered "the latest space-age breakthrough to a lifetime income from racing." The same man, revealed the former FBI aide, Spencer Drayton, who now heads the TRPB, once operated "The American Figuartor Company," which implied

winning by computer. Drayton recalled interviewing a man who had suffered from the swindle. The victim was a wealthy oil man who laughed it off. "I know I'm being taken," he admitted, "but I like it. I switch from tout to tout. I love their stories."

Ruled off the grounds of TRA member tracks are such colorful names as Sleepy Dancer, Hog Fat, Richmond Red, Rum Buggy and Blue Boy. They are not the names of race horses in the Jockey Club's list of unacceptable nomenclature.

Sleepy Dancer is a pickpocket. The others were barred for various other reasons, but Hog Fat's tag was earned for his proclivity for getting "fat" on phony jewelry and worthless watches. His story was that he was Tap City (tapped out; broke) but he had a dynamite horse coming up in the next race and would unload this very valuable piece of hardware for a fraction of its real value, just so he could bet on the good thing. If you didn't want to buy at the bargain price, well, just hold the watch, and lend him \$50 or \$100 on it. "I'll meet you right here after the race and buy it back." Hog Fat is looking for new territory.

One thing the TRA people can't seem to crack is the continued practice of the racing public to allow about \$1,500,000 in winnings to go unclaimed at the cashiers' windows each year. Theories are many, including that some are so uneducated they don't realize that a place ticket may be cashed if their horse wins; or, after a hasty look at the odds board before buying, confuse the horse's number with the odds, buy the wrong ticket, but don't realize the "wrong" number they bought by mistake was a winner; throw it away without checking.

## On the Right Track to New Towns

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

After a two-day symposium on religious planning for new towns in Chicago, five area clergy participating in social and religious planning for Riverton feel confident they are on the road to success.

Father William J. Flynn, assistant chancellor, has been meeting with the Revs. Larry Hickle of South Presbyterian, Henrietta; Marvin Chandler, director of Genesee Ecumenical

Ministries' minority programs; James Venable of Lyle Avenue Baptist, Rabbi Harvey Goldman of Temple Sinai and two representatives of Riverton Properties, Inc., weekly for about a year — and Riverton is still a year away from having any residents.

Riverton, which comprises 1,300 acres along the Genesee River in Henrietta, is expected to have about 1,000 residents in the fall of 1973 and 400 housing units are planned for completion.

Representatives of new towns from all over the U.S. and one from Canada took part in the two days of simulation games, discussion and training sponsored by a consortium of home mission agencies of nine Protestant denominations known as Church Development Strategy Screening Task Force.

The Rochester coalition learned that "the whole thing with new towns is that not enough pre-planning was done by religious leaders," according to Father Flynn. "This is one thing we hope we have overcome."

So far, their work with social planner, Charlotte Spencer, has produced tentative plans for some social programs for the religious.

"We feel the religious communities must be interested in all that affect the lives of people," explained Father Flynn, the only Catholic clergyman out of 60 participants at the Chicago meeting.

"We are working to create a community spirit without exclusiveness, leaving open many options," continued Father Flynn. "We and Riverton Prop-

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Ladies Guild of St. Cecilia's Church will hold its annual Christmas party in the school Dec. 5, beginning with a tureen supper at 6:30 p.m. The Sweet Adelines will provide Christmas entertainment following a short meeting.

erties are very sensitive to individuality and freedom of choice as well as to communities surrounding Riverton."

As for the erection of church buildings, there is no decision yet. Riverton Properties is leaving that up to the clergy, who plan to leave it up to the residents.

"They (Riverton Properties Inc.) have assured us space will be available on a rent basis for services," explained Father Flynn, "and as the trend and people's wishes go there is the possibility of church buildings."

### FASHION SHOW

The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Elmira Heights, will sponsor a fashion show at 8 tomorrow night, Nov. 30, in the parish hall. Members will serve as models. Mrs. Margaret Strong and Mrs. Marguerite Corsi are chairmen.

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## K. of C. Head Hits 'Maude' On Abortion

New Haven (RNS) — What some called a "pro-abortion" episode on the CBS-TV comedy series, "Maude" — an offshoot of "All in the Family" — was described here as a "tragedy" by the chief executive of the Knights of Columbus.

"The killing of the unborn is not a laughing matter," he stated.

Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt said that if the advocates of permissive abortion "desire to dispense their inducements to barbarity, they should not be given the medium of a popular television program at a prime children's viewing hour."

"The sophisms of the abortionists are about as dearly appreciated by millions of American families as is rat poison in Halloween candy," he added.

Speaking in behalf of the K of C, McDevitt said that if the TV media chooses to air controversial subjects, responsibility to the public requires a format whereby both sides of the issue are given a fair hearing at the same time.

He said the program gave evidence of a "shocking irresponsibility by the authors, producers, telecasters and sponsors of the program."



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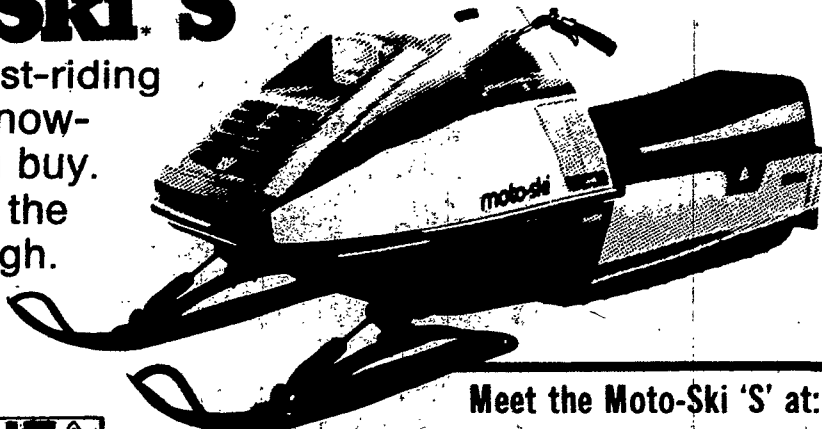
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