



IN THIS CORNER George Beahon

If you're inclined to believe what you read and hear these days, Off Track Betting on equine athletes is in the very near future for Upstate New Yorkers. Make me a price, and I'll bet you don't place an Off Track Bet in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, during the entire year of 1973.

That way, at least, the race tracks won't be forced out of business until 1974. Of course, when and if they are forced out of business, there's no way there will be any Off Track Betting.

OTB spokesmen warble in New York City about growth and prosperity and joy and peace. Every time they pay off part of the mortgage, they celebrate in print.

It just happened, however, that this Instant Riches situation has been achieved at the expense of the tracks and — dig this — the Sovereign State of New York.

You never heard of the S.S. of N.Y. taking the short end of the legal betting stick until now. Well, this is now.

While OTB revenues have been on the increase, the race tracks have been taking powerful lumps and bruises in both attendance and parimutuel handle. Consequently, the state's revenue from racing has declined accordingly.

Actually, what's really been happening to state tax money is that it's been diverted to the City of New York.

How serious the declines in activity at gate and betting wickets? Alarming, that's how serious.

Attendance at thoroughbred tracks dropped 16.4 per cent last year. Show me the business that can stand off that kind of a slump. Attendance at trotting tracks took a 10 per cent slide.

Meanwhile, betting in New York City area tracks (for purposes of comparing with OTB competition) dropped 9.6 for the flats, and 13 per cent at the jugheads.

The racing industry as a whole showed a decline in 1972, but this is a paradox.

When the totals of money bet legally at both the New York City tracks and OTB are added up, more money was bet than ever before in 1972. Would you buy \$1.969 billion?

The tracks are hurting most because OTB offers a cheap form of "getting on" to the horse players who find it more convenient to use the parlor than to travel out to the Big-A or Belmont with all their expense and discomforts.

Last word available here was that OTB would offer places like Finger Lakes, Batavia Downs and Buffalo Raceway, sliding percentage cuts on the off-track handle. Like from 1.9 per cent to 3.8 percent, depending on volume, in straight wagering — win, place and show. It would offer the tracks higher takes, of

3.4 to 6.8, on the exotic forms, such as Daily Doubles, Quinellas, Exactas, Trifectas, Superfectas, Twin Doubles, Pick Sixes, you name it.

Specifics on forms of wagering, takeout percentages, operational costs, numbers of computers, possible surcharge, locations, etcetera, seem to be out of reach, although high political commandos already are projecting jackpots for cities and counties.

If they bust out the race tracks, as noted earlier, they will wind up getting stuck with some expensive machinery, and no more golden eggs.

They talk about starting in the Fall; they can get me.

They could duck all this hassle right now and go after the really big bread.

The horse race handle of the average bookmaker is only about 15 per cent of his total. The rest is on other sports events. All of this untapped by any form of taxes.

How rich can you think?



SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK John Doser

Item: June 3, 1973, New York State Sports Writers Association weekly newsletter — "Many fine milers in New York State this year, but greats such as Centowitz (Power Memorial, NYC), Gaughn (Nazareth), Valenski (Regina), Horton (McQuaid Rochester) and McCarthy (All Hollows) won't be at the Intersectionals Meet as they are not in NYSPHSAA schools."

Item: June 10, 1973, New York State Sports Writers Association — "We thoroughly enjoyed the sun-baked Intersectional Track and Field Meet at Kenmore East. It was a good meet, but not a great meet simply because too many of New York State's finest schoolboy athletes did not take part."

The only reason they didn't take part is because they attend Catholic high schools.

In another item from the June 10 NYSSA epistle which now reaches some 351 members (more than 100 New York State sportswriters), authors Neil Kerr and Mike Holdridge of the Syracuse Newspapers mentioned that the Inter-Diocesan Championships at Troy June 3 were between Rochester and Albany dioceses, the only teams entered.

"Syracuse Diocesans are members of Section 3; Buffalo Diocesans do not recognize existence of other portions of New York State," Kerr-Holdridge reported.

For the record, Chris Horton's 4:15.1 in the Inter-Diocesan meet equaled the best time produced by Howie McNiff of Albertus Magnus, Section 9, in the intersectional meet.

How ironic that Section 5's public school best compete against Catholics in the intersectional meet (Section 3, for example), but Section 5 won't let Catholic schoolboys compete in its own sectional meets!

WHEN McQUAID'S, Chris Horton breaks another local mile track record, it will be his own.

Horton ran a 4:13.7 in the All-American mile in Des Moines and was invited to compete in the Golden West National Championships (held Saturday).

Catholic Parents Form Group

Albany, N.Y. [RNS] — Parents of Catholic school pupils in the eight New York dioceses have formed a federation to bolster inter-diocesan cooperation and develop a "state voice" on Catholic education.

In the process of adopting a constitution, the newly-established New York State Federation of Catholic School Parents named Dr. Thomas Curran of Elmira its first president and selected an executive committee, namely representatives from each diocese.

Representatives of the Rochester Diocese besides Dr. Curran are Thomas Banaszewski and Thomas Schnurr of Rochester.

FIELD MASS

The 56th annual field Mass for the souls of departed Knights of St. John and Ladies Auxiliary members will be offered at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 24, the feast of St. John the Baptist. Father George S. Wood, chaplain of Rochester Regiment and pastor of Mother of Sorrows Church, will be the celebrant.

The regiment will form on the west side of Lake Avenue and march to the temporary altar outside All Souls Chapel. The public is invited.

Dr. Curran, a major force in forming the federation, was among several Catholics who testified before state legislative committees on school aid issues during the last sessions of the legislature.

The new federation, according to J. Alan Davitt, executive secretary of the Catholic School Superintendents' Council, will be open to parent associations and related organizations and expects to be supported by contributions

from member organizations.

Aims of the federation spelled out in its proposed constitution include: helping parents fulfill their responsibilities for the education of their children in Catholic schools; advising parents of their rights as citizens; supporting and strengthening Catholic schools as part of the teaching mission of the Church; and providing parents with a means of participation in the educational mission of the Church.

A BOILED DINNER
EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT!
Corned Beef & Cabbage
EVERY SATURDAY 5 P.M. to 10 P.M.
BUS HORIGAN'S TAVERN
DAVIS at SECOND ST.
ELMIRA, N. Y. 732-9381

FOR PERFECT
DIAPER SERVICE
Stork
BABY WASH
381-7340

LOLL'S PHARMACY
R. C. LOLL, PHARMACIST
PRESCRIPTIONS
OUR MAIN BUSINESS
OPEN TIL 11 P.M. DAILY
903 DAVIS ST. ELMIRA
RE 2-6674

A. W. BEILBY & SON
Funeral Home
139 Walnut St.
Dial 936-9121
Corning, N. Y.

M. L. ALLEN & SON
Corning, N.Y.
Quality Furniture
62 Bridge St.
Phone 936-8431

CEILINGS
ONE DAY INSTALLATIONS
Suspended & Block Ceilings
Free Estimates—Call Day or Night
JOSEPH DE GEORGE CEILING
647-3795

BUYERS GUIDE
"Quality Shopping With Confidence"

Visit our show rooms—Select a real bargain—Complete line Rugs, Furniture, Appliances, etc.
Charlotte Appliance
TONY AGOSTINELLI
Lake Theatre—3200 Lake Ave.
663-5050

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH PRESCRIPTIONS
Carefully Compounded
MANDELL'S PHARMACY
By Mandell
467-8775 266-8551
DRUGS-COSMETICS-SUNDRIES
Portland Ave. at Norton

OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CHILSON PHARMACY
1707 Monroe Ave.
473-6402
DELIVERY SERVICE
Prescription SERVICE

WARNER'S LIQUOR STORE
HINCHEY ROAD
AT CHILI AVE.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
DEWEY AVE. PHARMACY
Prescription Specialists
COSMETICS — TOILETRIES
PHOTOFINISHING
2510 Dewey Avenue 665-2210

Roofing • Siding • Gutter
DROUIN BROS. INC.
Work Guaranteed • Free Estimates
Fully Insured • Dependable Serv. Since 1864
148 Bridge Rd. E., Roch. N.Y.
Bus. 544-7358 Home 821-2458

Crossword Answer

APE	LAMINATE
NEP	ANEMONES
TRET	ALBI
ICERS	TUSSLE
DO	YAW EELER
OLA	PAS SIVA
TAKE	NEW MID
ETONS	CAT TI
SEETH	SUMAC
RETE	BETA
AIREDALE	NET
DETESTED	USE