

IN THIS CORNER

George Beahan

Now that Off Track Betting has been brought to our part of the country, I would like to make a wager.

It will be years, if ever, before OTB will show a profit in this area.

Two reasons.

1 — The high cost of operations, past, present and future.

2 — The low volume potential.

Operating costs are obvious. Four cents to the outfit providing the machinery is a wild price, far more than race tracks can afford. Administrative costs, betting shop rentals, staff salaries for a 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. business day will be staggering.

The only way to make it pay is to have a fantastic "handle" or volume of business. I do not see it in the Rochester-Monroe County area.

To begin with, OTB will not wipe out your friendly neighborhood bookmaker.

OTB offers only one real advantage to the bettor. That is paying track odds. If you want to risk your loved ones or deuces or fins on a 25 to 1 shot, you should truck yourself over to the OTB shop. Because there you can get paid off at 25 to 1, not at the limits set by the bookmakers. (In this area they put limits of 15-1, 6-1 and 3-1 on win, place and show action; also 40 to 1 on exactas, and usually about 75 to 1 on Daily Doubles.)

The only trouble is, those 25 to 1 shots never win. Or if they do, somebody else bet on them.

The bookmaker has the advantage of extending credit to his customers. Even if it is only the week-to-week type. You pick up the telephone and make a pair of bets at Finger Lakes. You pay or collect once a week. You didn't

have to leave your office chair to make the bet.

How does OTB entice the steady player away from the convenience of his telephone access to his bookie? Sure, OTB can offer telephone accounts, but the bettor is shut off unless he has a "plus" account.

OTB will spark and sputter and then coast into a rut. Maybe the handle will be great enough to handle the operational nut.

There is still one more advantage for the bookie.

If you make a big score with OTB, you are eligible to pay both state and federal income tax. The bookmaker is not turning your name and account number in to Uncle Sam.

There is only one way for OTB to make it and make it big. And it must happen.

That is to get into the real gambling business.

Professional sports.

A survey last year showed that 1 of every 11 adults in the U.S. made some kind of wager on Monday Night Football, the network National Football League production.

One of 11 is a lot of bread, which is not being tapped by any government arm outside of Las Vegas, where they cheat now to avoid the 10 per cent asked by the law.

Pro football, basketball, hockey, baseball.

The action on any one of these sports on a playoff date, for example, is more than OTB will handle on any given day of the entire year, with the possible exception of Kentucky Derby Day. Possible. Not probable.

Until it gets into sports — specifically team sports — OTB will simply be spinning its wheels.

SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK

John Dover

The recent death of **Morrie Silver**, the savior of Rochester Red Wing baseball, was indeed very sad news.

Mr. Silver was a soft-spoken gentleman and the heart and soul behind the Red Wings, no matter who wore the title of general manager in the front office.

His untimely departure doesn't mean the end of Red Wing baseball; however, as some local writers have suggested. There are many Rochesterians who rallied behind Mr. Silver years ago when the Red Wings were on the verge of dissolution. The same spirit of the Rochester community will not permit the Red Wings to step backward at this crucial time.

Whether the parent Baltimore Orioles will help put a man in the front office, or whether Red Wing president **Bill Lang** seeks a local person, now is the time for Red Wing fans to make sure the club stays financially healthy, by continuing to support it as much as they have in the past.

Silver Stadium might one day make a great parking lot, but a lot of us ex-Knot Hokers who cut our baseball teeth at 500 Norton St. won't let that happen.

Baseball's Prayer

Father Thomas M. Reddington, pastor of Holy Name Church in Greece, is also the chaplain of the Monroe County American

Legion. He was a head table guest at the Legion's annual Red Wing baseball dinner at the Mapledale Party House, and gave a most unusual invocation.

Father Reddington credited the Lord for developing such talents as the Red Wings' **Wayne Garland** who threw a no-hitter against Charleston in the season's opener three weeks ago.

"Poor Wayne," Father Reddington prayed, "Will he be batted out of the box tomorrow? We thank you Lord, for the likes of him and **Wickie McAvoy** and **Johnny Antonelli** (both Rochester born big leaguers) who used God's talents given to them to win greatness and become inspirations to all of us.

"As we begin a new ball season, good ol' Joe (Altabelli, Red Wings manager), and the Red Wings, we pray, will also be great and all-winning because they are grateful to God for the arms and the eyes to be better than others.

"To the older people they are our heroes and we hope we never have to say, like was said once before many years ago, 'Black Sox, we hope it wasn't so.'

"May the Red Wings truly win because they use their talents better than the other team." (The Wings lost the opener to Charleston, 8-7).

Catholic Directory Reports New Population Figures

New York — Catholics in the 50 states, including all families of the defense forces both at home and abroad, and diplomatic and other services abroad, now number 48,465,438, according to The Official Catholic Directory for 1974, just issued by P. J. Kennedy & Sons. The new total represents an increase over last year of 5,011.

There are now 32 archdioceses in the United States, with a Catholic population of 21,639,036, and 133 dioceses recording a Catholic population of 26,826,402.

The archdioceses reported a loss of 151,087, and the dioceses increased by 156,098. The seven archdioceses with Catholic populations in excess of one million are Chicago, 2,476,300; Los Angeles, 1,984,429; Boston, 1,893,050; New York, 1,800,000; Detroit, 1,569,104; Newark, 1,520,163; and Philadelphia, 1,375,096. Brooklyn continues as the largest diocese, with a Catholic population of 1,346,220. In addition, eight archdioceses and eight dioceses reported Catholic populations of over 500,000.

[Rochester's Catholic population is now a record 358,850.]

The 1974 Directory lists 297 members of the hierarchy — a decrease of eight over a year ago.

A decrease of 257 in the number of the clergy, brings the total of ordained priests to 56,712. There are now 36,058 or 165 fewer diocesan or secular priests and 20,654 religious order priests, a decrease of 92.

Professed religious personnel include 9,233 brothers, an increase of 32, and 139,963 sisters, representing a decrease of 3,091.

There is a total of 11,009 separate educational institutions — 249 fewer than reported in 1973. Included are 109 diocesan seminaries; 293 religious order seminaries or novitiates and scholasticates; 258 colleges and universities; 1,004 diocesan and parish high schools; 698 private high schools; 8,312 parish elementary schools, and 335 private elementary schools. There are, in addition, 138 protective institutions, with 11,679 youths in attendance.

Full-time teaching staffs of all educational institutions under Catholic auspices, have decreased by 8,547, to a total of 174,711, comprising 7,076 priests; 551 scholastics; 3,735 brothers; 59,759 sisters, and 103,590 lay teachers.

50 YEARS OF MOVIES

Fifty Years of Movies, a show written, directed and produced by Father William O'Malley, will be put on this weekend by the McQuaid Parents Club. Sister Peg Ganley is music director.

Curtain time is 8:15 p.m. May 10 and 11 at Mercy High School auditorium. A meet-the-cast party will follow the play each evening. Tickets may be reserved through Mrs. Daniel Hurley, 586-6159, or Mrs. Leo Smith, 334-7826.

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In 1944, when first recorded, lay teachers numbered 7,633 (8.25 per cent). Their number continually increased through 1971, when 106,844 outnumbered religious teachers for the first time. Despite the decrease of 193 in 1974, lay teachers represent 59.3 per cent of all teachers in Catholic schools.

In 1945, at the start of the nation's enrollment boom, The Official Catholic Directory recorded 10,912 educational institutions with an enrollment of 2,590,660 students. Through 1965, the institutions increased by 3,384 and the students by 3,505,186. This year, there are 3,287 fewer institutions, and 2,039,789 fewer students.

During 1973, there were in operation two more diocesan and 11 less religious order seminaries. The 109 diocesan seminaries report enrollments of 11,765 seminarians, a decrease of 1,160, while the 293 novitiates and scholasticates of the Religious Orders have 7,583 students or 1,272 less, indicating a total of 19,348 candidates for the priesthood.

The 916,564 baptisms recorded, a decrease of 58,507 over 1973, continues the downward trend that commenced in 1962. The

number of converts was 74,741. This reflects an increase of 816 over last year but is the second lowest figure recorded since 1959.

Marriages recorded decreased by 8,579 to 406,908; during the same period, 415,412 Catholics died in the U.S., 10,928 less deaths than in the previous year.

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