

Places I've Done Time

by Clifford Francis

A horse is a horse

A few weeks back I met a fellow I had not seen for a long time. More than a decade had passed since I spoke with him.

I used to race a horse or two on the odd occasion at Orangeville Raceway. The track has been closed for over 15 years, I think.

This one time I had taken two horses there to race and one horse had won and the other finished second. The horse that finished second had been claimed off me as it had raced for a price on its head, and someone put up the money and after the race it had a new owner.

The other horse I sold to a guy for a good profit.

I slid into the bar and was having a beer where I met Dale and his dad Allen Brown. Dale was the man I met again a few weeks ago. They lived on a farm a few miles outside of Orangeville and Allen bought and sold horses and other livestock. When I told him I was from Orono they instantly asked me if I knew Bill Reid.

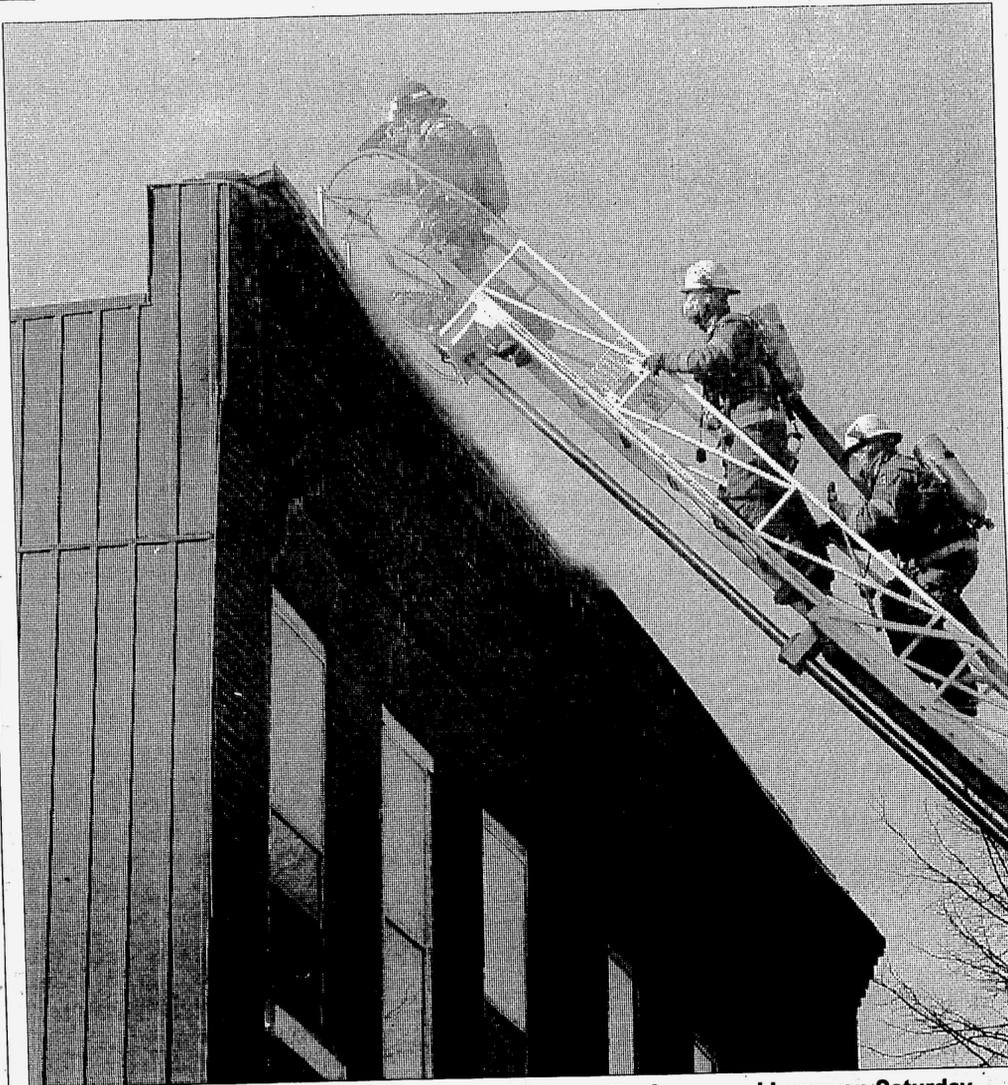
Well I guess I do, was my reply. Allen had bought black cattle off Bill on many occasions and a few horses as well. They invited me out to the farm as they had several standardbred horses they were willing to sell cheap. A couple of weeks later I went out to visit the farm.

I was amazed at the num-

ber of horses on the farm. Each year in the fall, Dale and Allen would go to race tracks such as Woodbine, Fort Erie and others to buy Thoroughbred running horses that were cheap. They also bought cheap standardbred horses off people at racetracks and auctions. All these horses ended up on the farm, then they'd sort out what they'd use them for. Allen, Dale and his sister Sarah would hitch up these horses and drive them. The standard bred went into three groups. Those that had a chance to race went into one group, the second group could be sold as buggy horses for the Amish folks, and the third group would go for auction at Owen Sound.

The Thoroughbred horses were really interesting. Allen had a brother near High River Alberta who bought horses and ran them in the Chuck Wagon races. Dale and his sister Sarah would 'rough break' them by hitching them up to teams of four. Sarah had the knack of knowing how to place these horses. Some worked better on the front or back, or on the left or right side. Then Allen would drive them around the track at great speeds. The better they handled or the faster they went increased the price of each horse or each team. To see a team of horses race around the track at breakneck speed is something to behold. The horses that weren't fast

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Clarington fire fighters battle a Newcastle apartment fire for several hours on Saturday.

Newcastle apartment fire

The cause of the blaze at the King Street West apartment building is still under investigation. Fire Fighters from Bowmanville, Newcastle Orono responded to several 911 calls around 9 a.m. concerning the smoke arising from under the roof at the front of the apartment building.

According to a Clarington Fire Department spokesper-

son, fire fighters commenced an interior attack on the fire from inside one of the front apartments. The high attic height made this process difficult so fire fighters cut a hole in the roof and attacked the fire from outside.

Eight people from the six apartments at the front of the building are still displaced as their homes sustained fire, water and smoke damage.

The Canadian Red Cross was on the scene within a few hours of the incident and have provided clothing, food and lodging to the displaced families.

Twenty four firefighters and seven vehicles attended the fire, with equipment and personnel at the scene from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

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