

The Acton Free Press

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Second Section.



YOU CAN BUY HARNESS, horse linament and all the paraphernalia drivers wear in a mobile harness shop located in the stable area at Mohawk. Clara Henderson, manager of the shop, is well-acquainted with the needs of the horsemen.

Morning tour of Mohawk reveals surprising activity in stables

PHOTOS AND STORY BY
AUDREY LAWRENCE

"I've always had a hankering for horses, and when I got the opportunity for a behind-the-scenes visit to the busy Mohawk Raceway one morning, I jumped at the chance.

"I've always thought of race tracks in the conventional way—a nice, easy way of life with animals of almost human intelligence and ballet-like grace.

"What a surprise I got!

"Instead of idly and easily living my impression of the raceway—one of the continent's most modern—was almost like one of a busy thoroughfare. There were horses, grooms, trainers, owners; exercising, training, brushing, treating and cooling out.

"The first place we went to was stable No. 2 where I was introduced to "Cowboy" Ross Curran's stable of 26 head. Grooms and drivers were already well underway in their usual morning's schedule of work.

"Bill Wellwood, a very cooperative and friendly trainer and driver, had Credit Card, a five-year-old pacer, brought out of his stall for me to photograph in my first attempt at press photography.

"The intricate camera and battery case had been all prepared, back at the newspaper office, for me to simply focus and click.

"But a spirited horse doesn't stay in focus, so I found, anyway with the help of trainers and drivers I took quite a few pictures which the editor proclaimed good enough to go in the paper.

"Credit Card, who looks in top form, is owned by Dave Lindsay of D. H. Lindsay Flour Mill, Acton. You don't only learn about horses at the track. I discovered that Lindsay's flour mill produces flour solely for Dad's Cookies and has been operating continuously for 25 years. Mr. Lindsay has owned horses all his life.

"On to the next big barn, where I visited the stable of Jimmy "Red" Holmes of Milton. Here I was introduced to Mrs. Wolfgang von Richthofen and her beautiful French-bred trotter Olivet.

"Next, I was shown through the stable of Ronnie Feagan, who was away that day in London where he has another 26 horses bedded down.

"I met groom Don McCormick with Lynden Danny, who was receiving careful treatment for a sore leg. Mr. McCormick had Lynden Danny in what he called a "boot"—a whirlpool bath designed especially for sore-legged horses!

"At the end of the large barn was George Hawke's stable. In this stable is Silver Ronnie, a truly magnificent animal, with

lifetime earnings of \$60,000. He has been owned by Mr. Hawke for four years and was full of ginger that morning. He'll surely boost his earnings this year.

"Before leaving the stable area I visited with an old friend and former co-worker, Clara Henderson. Clara is now general manager for MacDonald's Harness Ltd. and works out of a mobile trailer crammed with various pieces of equipment, clothing—and just about anything you could need if you were a driver—or a horse.

"Over at the track I climbed stairs, upon stairs to finally arrive out of breath at the very top, the press box. This is where the reporters (as I had suddenly become) from various papers, publicity men and also the announcer are located.

"The announcer has a tiny room in the corner of the press box where he watches the races and makes his comments. The corner of the building blocks off the view of the track in one spot and the only way I could see for him to get a complete view of the track would be to hang out the window. Let's just hope he wears a safety belt while the races are on.

"I'd often been to the Mohawk to the races, but to see the horses in the stables, meet some of the trainers, drivers, owners and grooms, makes a night in the stand even more interesting and exciting.



SILVER RONNIE, an 11-year-old pacer, owned and driven by George Hawke of Mimico, has lifetime earnings of \$60,000 in his career.

Silver Ronnie, an attractive grey, is in peak condition for the present race meet at Mohawk. That's owner George Hawke on the halter.

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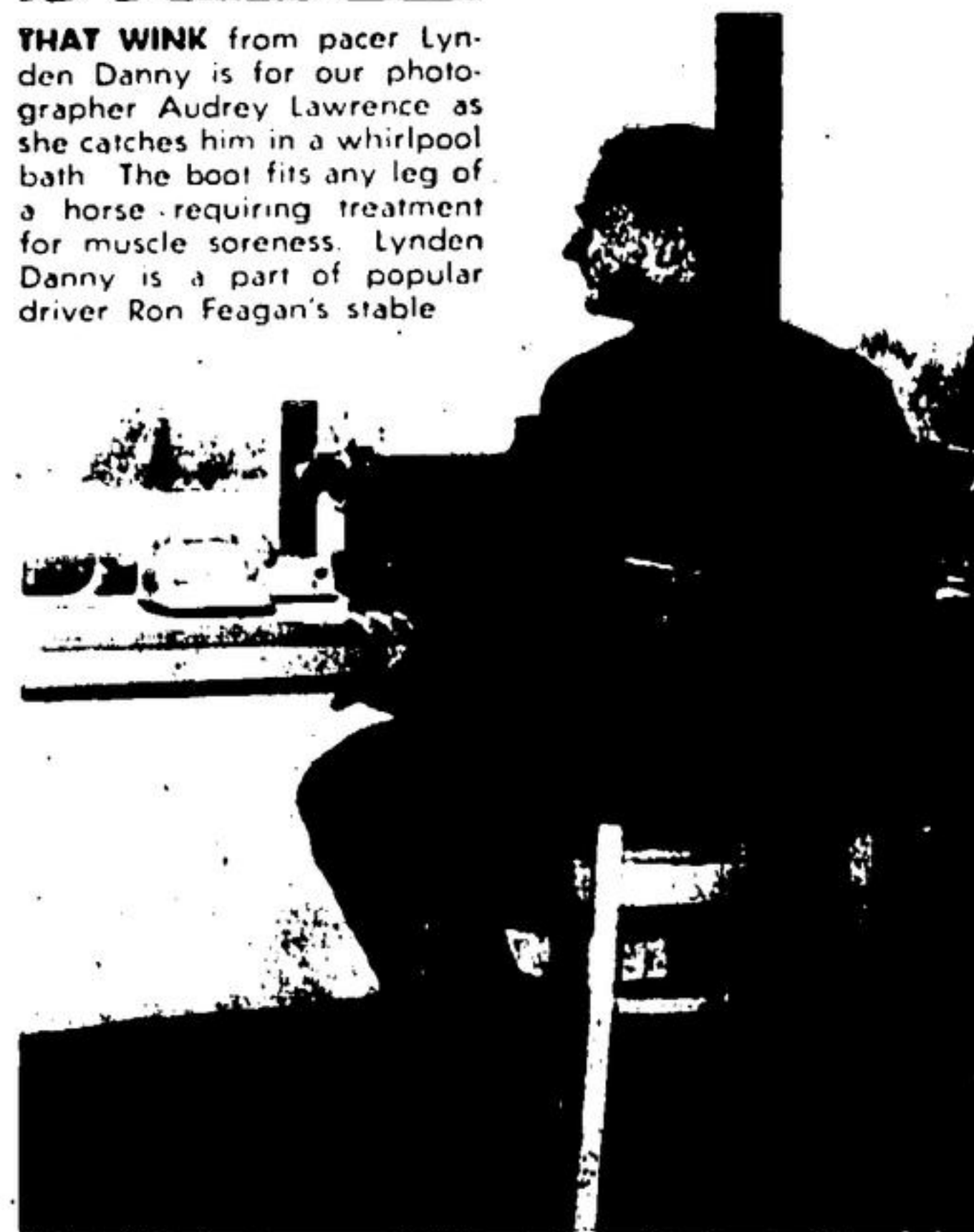


THAT WINK from pacer Lynden Danny is for our photographer Audrey Lawrence as she catches him in a whirlpool bath. The boot fits any leg of a horse requiring treatment for muscle soreness. Lynden Danny is a part of popular driver Ron Feagan's stable.



ONE OF THE EXTRA attractions few fans see at Mohawk Raceway at Campbellville is a woodland setting housing a small zoo. These

deer blend in with the landscape, sharing space with pheasants and ducks. The zoo is a pet hobby for track superintendent Henry Neave.



PUBLICITY MAN BILL GALVIN has one of the best seats in the house, on top of the grandstand at Mohawk when the racing season is underway. His birds-eye view enables him to see many facets of harness racing which the ordinary buff would miss.



OLIVET, A FRENCH-BRED trotter, is held by owner Mrs. Wolfgang Von Richthofen of R.R. 1 Campbellville. The 10-year-old is a prime favorite for racing buffs anxious to pick up extra loot at the track. Jimmy Holmes, well-known Milton horseman, has Olivet in his stable of standardbreds.