



Bath time

The reward for racing on a muddy track in the rain is a hot bath afterwards. This horse is held with chains from the ceiling and has been hosed down. At first, clouds of steam rose from his back. To get all the mud off, the trainer has to apply a little elbow grease.

Staff photo

Jones and Taylor

Horse racing a great tradition with two local residents

Fifty years ago Midland's Reeve, Herb Taylor harnessed his standardbred horses on a track in Penetanguishene. The track was crude by today's standards, the purses were not as high, and paying \$240,000 for a horse was unheard of.

Today Herb's son, Ken Taylor, has decided to keep up the family tradition. Five years ago, at the age of 60, Ken Taylor got back into standardbred racing himself.

Ken says "as a kid I used to drive my father's horses and clean out the stables. He adds, "racing seems to stick in your blood."

Bill Jones, another Midland area man, would agree with Ken—once you have racing in you, it is hard to get rid of it. Bill got interested in horses back in the days when horse drawn carts delivered the milk. Bill says it was always interesting to see "which of the dairies had the nicest and the fastest horse."

all those years "we were only out of the money with her four times."

Bill has 2 brood mares and a colt right now. The colt is Lady Isobel J's son. He had his debut on the track this summer.

Ken had three horses until a little while ago. Since he likes to go south for the winter, he has sold one and has another one up for sale. The third one died of a viral infection.

What exactly is a standardbred horse? According to Ken Taylor a standardbred can be either a pacer or trotter. Most people are not aware that there is a distinction between the two.

Back in the days when Herb Taylor was racing, a trotter was almost unheard of. It is only within the last ten years, that racing trotters have come into the foreground.

Trotters run on a "diagonal pattern". According to Taylor this means that their front left leg and their back right leg come forward at the same time. On the other hand, pacers legs move in a lateral pattern with their front left leg and their back left leg coming forward at the same time.

According to Taylor it is natural for a horse to trot. However, it is difficult to keep a trotter from breaking out of its trot. A pacer by comparison can be made to pace with leather straps called "hobbles". The hobbles will not allow the horse to run any other way than in a lateral pattern. If the horse tries to break out of the lateral pattern, he'll fall.

Pacers and trotters race in separate races since pacers are faster by about one second. Pacers are also easier to drive since they will automatically pace. Trotters are difficult to drive since the driver must keep the horse trotting. According to an ex-trotter driver and president of the Barrie Raceway, Bill Rowe,

"driving a trotter is all in the fingertips."

Bill Jones still drives his own horses even though he has to pass a medical examination every year to do so. According to Jones, the medical is compulsory after age 50. He says "I like driving myself and as long as I stay healthy I'll continue to drive." Jones does not think that driving is dangerous. He says "I would sooner drive a horse on a track like the Barrie Raceway than drive a car down that Queen Elizabeth Highway near Toronto."

Taylor reluctant Ken Taylor is more reluctant to drive. He says he is too old—a lot older than his friend Bill Jones. Taylor has a driver for his horses. The driver gets \$10 a race and 10 percent of the purse if the horse should place. Taylor says "I'd rather let someone younger

drive." Although Bill Jones thinks that driving is pretty safe business, some other drivers may not agree. Bill Rowe, used to drive trotters. However, a bad crash left him partially paralyzed on the left side and ended his career. However, he still talks fondly of his racing days.

Getting a license to drive is necessary before a driver is ever allowed on the track. Bill Jones says drivers must apprentice for six to eight months. They also must have one of the older, more experienced drivers sign for them to say "that they have worked with horses and are capable of driving." Jones says you could easily have a license within a year.

But having a licensed driver and a trained horse does not give an owner an automatic pass onto the track. Before a horse

ever gets near a track to actually race, it must qualify. Ken Taylor says this means the horse must go as fast or faster than a qualifying time that track officials lay down. Once the horse has qualified, according to Taylor, does not mean that he'll never have to qualify again. If the horse breaks stride during his first race he has to go back and qualify again. Then, even if he races perfectly for dozens of races, it just takes two races in a row in which the horse breaks stride, to send him back to step one—to qualify once again.

Types of races Once the horse is at the track ready to race, the owner has to decide what type of races to run it in. Ken Taylor ran his horse Agile Annie in a "claiming race" on Wednesday night. Most of the races at the track are "claiming races."

Bill Rowe explains that claiming races are races in which the competing horses are up for sale. The owner has a choice of which claiming race to put his horse in.

Ken Taylor selected the \$1750 claiming race with allowances for Agile Annie. This means that prospective buyers must pay \$1750 dollars for Annie plus 40 per cent of that amount because she is a mare. The 40 per cent is the "allowance."

All prospective buyers for a horse are put "in a hat" and one is selected. Rowe says he must take the horse with only "a halter and a lead shank". No harness or sulky can go with the horse.

For owner's of really good horses who want to hang on to them, there are class races. The horses are entered according to their winnings and their starts. It is up to the race secretary to

make sure that the horses in each race are all evenly matched.

Stake race The other type of race that is held is a stake race. These are held on selected days in the year. Taylor says that last year, over 3-million in purse money was given away in stakes races. A stake race is the only race that there is an entry fee for and horses can be entered anywhere from six weeks to a year in advance. The most recent stake race at the Barrie Raceway was on Saturday Oct. 16 and it was for 3-year-old fillies only.

In all races the horses' names are thrown into a hat. Eight horses' names are drawn and get post positions in the order they are drawn. Bill Jones says the Barrie Raceway is not the only place for Midland people to race, but it has

made a big difference for harness racers in the area.

Bill Rowe says that it is not easy to make money at harness racing. The horse alone can range in price from \$1500 to almost any price imaginable.

At a recent auction of standardbreds in Lexington, Kentucky a standardbred mare went for \$240,000. Bill Jones says a good horse around Midland will sell for \$20,000 to \$30,000. The age of the horse, and its track record will make a difference in the price.

What about the people who go to the track? According to Rowe, they're there to gamble. He says with Wintario they have one chance in a million, but at the track they have one chance in eight.

But they also come to the track because of "the spirit of competition and their love of the sport."

Civilians win close one

Midland's Junior Civilians Major Bantams gained a narrow victory over Orillia in their Georgian Bay Minor Hockey League exhibition game in Orillia Sunday, as they scored a goal in the last 19 seconds of play to win 4-3.

Pat Brodeur scored three goals for the Junior Civilians including the winner in a game that saw 18 minor penalties handed out. Orillia was assessed 13 of those penalties and yet managed to stay with Midland until the end of the game.

Midland's first goal was scored by Pat Brodeur from Guy Forget followed by John Wright's tying goal from Cousin Dave Wright and Pat Belanger. In the third period Pat Brodeur combined with Todd Clarke to make the score 3-2 before Orillia came back to tie.

Brodeur scored the winner from Clarke at 19:41 of the third period. Clarke was awarded a penalty shot late in the first period when an Orillia player fell on the puck in the crease and prevented Clarke from tipping it in for a goal.

Clarke missed and hit the post after beating the Orillia goal tender.

Coach Bob Colbourne was pleased with the last minute win but commented on the chippy play that characterized the game.

"It was the first game of the season," he said, "the play was very sloppy, but then it's always like that at the first of the season."

Goal tender Brian Moore turned back several shots by the Orillia offense and gave few rebounds to earn praise from coach Colbourne.

Sports Calendar

Gulf
LORNE RANCE
GULF STATION
ELMVALE

BEST BUY
Gas ★ Oil
Batteries
Tires
Mechanic
On Duty

NEW HOLLAND
Farm Equipment
BEATTY
Pump and Water Systems
DORITY
FARM SERVICE
428-2346
Main St., Stayner

Are you paying too much for your insurance?
Call **RUSSELL HARGRAVE Insurance Agency**
27 Queen St. W. P.O. Box 486
ELMVALE, ONT.
322-2010 or 534-3149
Formerly W.P. Clute Insurance Agency,
Auto., Farm, Home

BULLETIN:
Late Tuesday night, the Lercar Construction baseball club defeated Hotel Brule in the seventh and final game of the Georgian Bay Fastball League.

Check the sports pages of the Friday Times and Citizen for more details

Bill Clark
General Contractor
Landscaping - Excavating
Sand and Gravel Supplies
- Water Haulage
ELMVALE Bus. 322-2545

QUICK DELIVERY GRAVEL
Screened Top Soil
Septic Bedstone
Crushed Road & Cement Gravel

Telescopic Backhoe
19, 24, 36" Buckets
Radio Dispatched
Bernie Pilon Const.
Elmvalle 322-1051

To place your advertising message here, call
526-2283

ROLFOTO
347 King St.
For **KODAK PRODUCTS** featuring...
the **HANDLE ONLY**
\$38.00

BILTRITE

CASH & CARRY



WALL PANEL SPECIALS!

444 EACH
Prefinished mahogany panel in utility grade NF2.

489 EACH
Another first quality particle board panel in three beautiful woodgrain patterns.
CARNIVAL ELM
JUBILEE OAK
PECAN

OCTOBER VALUES!

Our Lowest Price WALL PANEL
A No. 1 particle board wall panel with an attractive woodgrain pattern.

387 EACH
FROM

697 EACH
A # 1 panel with 'V' groove. Woodgrain overlay pattern in different colours.
ASH
CEDAR
TEAK
WALNUT

FLOORING SPECIALS!

Ozite Indoor/Outdoor Carpet
This first quality indoor/outdoor carpet is ideal for the hard work areas around your home. Green Only
198 SQ. YD.

Ozite Styletones
This carpet looks great in family rooms, high traffic areas, etc. It's available in assorted colours with a pattern and is foam backed. 12' widths.
594 SQ. YD.

Ozite Carpet
Here's our first quality foam backed carpet that's ideal for rec rooms, dens, etc. Sold in 12' widths.
BROWN 237 SQ. YD.
GOLD 237 SQ. YD.

Ozite New Nyle-Tyme
This first quality foam backed carpet is treated with z pel for long static-free use. The level loop carpet is available in orange only.
495 SQ. YD.

CEILING SPECIALS

4x4' White Ceiling Tile
The economical way to finish a ceiling! These 4 x 4' sheets are scored into one foot squares and painted with four coats of vivid white.
298 EACH

Suspended Ceiling Components

REZTILE
2 x 4' Suspended Ceiling Tile
157 EA

2 x 4' Egg Crate Light Panel
599 EA

2 x 4' Prismatic & Milky Light Panel
299 EA

12 x 12" White Ceiling Tile
1088 EA

2 X 3 BUDGET STUD 47c **2 X 4 BUDGET STUD 59c**

PICK UP A FLYER AT YOUR STORE — ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT!
Prices Above Are Strictly Cash & Carry

STORE HOURS

Open: Mon. Tues. Wed. and Thurs.
8am till 6pm
Fri. from 8am till 9pm
Sat. from 8am till 5pm.

BILTRITE CASH & CARRY

Barrie: Highways 26 and 27
Penetang: 188 Main St., 549-7404
OPERATED BY BILTRITE CASH & CARRY LTD

- SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
- REPLACEMENT OR MONEY CHEERFULLY REFUNDED
- FREE PARKING
- BUDGET TERMS AVAILABLE
- MASTER CHARGE & CHARGE X
- FREE ESTIMATING
- DELIVERY AVAILABLE AT REASONABLE RATES

Page 14, Wednesday, October 19, 1977