



E-NEWS AND E-NOTES FOR FRIDAY, MAY 23rd, 2025



THE GREENVILLE MILE

Greenville hosted a fine 18-race matinee on Saturday the 17th at the Darke County Fairgrounds. While there were no surprises in the equine department as the horsemen presented their animals in great shape. One really enjoyable performance was when 14-year-old **Amelia Smith** - “she’ll be 15 in July” – got behind the gate aboard **Manny**, a 12-year-old gelding owned by her mom Jessica and trained by her dad Randy.

Leaving from the 4 hole the gelded son of American Ideal floated easily into the first turn as the competition carried them past the quarter in :29.4. Amelia calmly took the lead and cut her own fractions of a half in :59 flat, 3/4s in 1:29 and came home uncontested in a well-measured time of 1:58.4h. A perfect steer for the career winner of over \$540,000 who sports a mark as a 3-year-old of 1:51f and has had 20 different owners since being foaled at Spring Haven Farm in Utica, Ohio.

BOUNTY IN BUCYRUS

On a bright and windy morning post time of 11 am the Bucyrus Matinee Club went behind the gate on Saturday the 17th at Crawford County Fairgrounds. Starter Mike Woebkenberg gave the babies their initial schooling as they rounded the oval a few times and then... Ryan Stahl stole the ball! The 47-year-old resident of nearby Republic, Ohio gaged six winners home on the day including several times that were “right on the money” in their Time Bar.



THE HOUSE RULES

At the Fayette County County Fairgrounds on Sunday the 18th a 14-race card at Washington Court House saw just turned 15-year-old **Matt Stepp** have his wish come true. His two-year quest began going to the races, then helping with the horses and then jogging & training. He went behind the gate and would cut his own mile and win his very first attempt with his matinee license.

URBANA LEGEND



Born in 1898 at a crossroads some 60 miles south of Urbana **Hugh M. Parshall** would take his first steps from just about behind a horse.

The family moved to Hillsboro where he was a gifted student and athlete. After graduation he took his college tuition and bought a horse which he turned into a winner then divided his time between vet school in the winter and driving at the Fairs during the summer

In sort of a grand "Welcome Home" display of talent the 21-year-old Parshall captured every heat of every race at his hometown Highland County Fair and became nationally known almost overnight. He would take his show on the road. After his marriage in 1924 he would settle on Park Street in Urbana right alongside the Fairgrounds.

With their common bond of exceptional abilities and keen competition he became friends with **Thomas Murphy**, the leading reinsman in America from 1919-1927 as they campaigned their stables.



Murphy, was known as "the Wizard of the Reins," and would retire at the age of 50 in 1927. He gifted his driving silks to the 29-year-old "upstart."

"Doc" Parshall would lead all drivers in the country from 1929-1939 while stabled at the Champaign County Fairgrounds ...now THOSE are some colors!

Doc would develop Champions and Hambletonian winners. In 1945 he picked out **Adios** for the owners who **Rupe Parker** would drive to headlines. It was a young (35) **Delvin Miller** who took Parshall's advice to buy the horse for stud duty at his Meadow Lands Farm in western Pennsylvania. Adios became the dominant sire for over 25 years & made Delvin Miller a very rich man.

Doc Parshall developed heart problems which forced him to turn over his horses to other trainers for their conditioning. Delvin Miller would capture both the Hambletonian in August & The Little Brown Jug in September with two of Parshall's students as a testament to both their outstanding horsemanship. Sadly, Doc would succumb in November of 1950.

The Fairgrounds still produced its share of Champions as **Dick Buxton** would make his way from Urbana into the Hall of Fame.

When **John F. Kennedy** spoke in his inauguration speech of 1961 *"that the torch has been passed to a new generation"* ...so it is that holds true today:

Aim high and dig deep.

THE URBANA MATINEE

Sunday May 25th at 12 noon