



E-NEWS AND E-NOTES FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 5th, 2025

Reelin' from the years...

When 2019 ended everything was on a high note... the Fair Season had concluded with attendance up as new fans were added daily. One of the more successful projects was the *Racing With The Stars* hospitality OHHA tent which served as a meet and greet for the Fairs audience. It was a simple plan: host contests, disperse information, and give the fans more to do during the downtime between races. As we expanded on the already implemented theme, we began our "Fan Contest" where contestants were chosen from an entry box and announced to come on down to draw a number. They were matched with a horse in the featured race, an idea that was "borrowed" from a veteran PR man "up North" in one of our many conversations.

As the participants put their numbers on, it provided a great photo op to be shared with the web and the local newspapers with a definite hometown flavor. Starting from an original number of 33 Fairs, we expanded the promo to be welcomed at 66 over the course of the year.

And over 10,000 miles was logged within the 210 x 230-mile state of Ohio.



When it came time to "Spin the Wheel" and win a prize some of the answers that were offered brought guffaws with their innocence. When asked "how many legs does a horse have? (we kept 'em simple to make sure they won a prize) a young kid answered brightly "Two!" and I was taken aback as several others in the audience raised their eyebrows.

"I think those are the ones," added one wit, "that I usually bet on."

Being able to visit all the various County Fairs was a lot of work but enjoyable as each area had their own story to tell and the folks were fiercely proud of the towns and the longevity of their Fairs. We met a lot of good people.



When we announced that THEY were going to be in a foot race there was a quick look of anxiety and then relieved smiles when they realized we were only joshin'. The regular crowd would join in the fun. It was a busy and

Madcap race some days to get to the numerous Fairs and my old training board from the barn was incorporated for use as a event schedule:



At one point I believe we rattled off 19 straight days which “down time” included writing press releases as well as taking and editing photos.

But the Fans were worth it as comments such as “I’ve never, ever enjoyed myself at the races like this” and everyone was felt welcomed.



A Knight and two Ladies.

In memory of Kent S. Knight of Sidney (1947-2020)

The Winter months bought us time to regroup
but it also brought in COVID 19...



A quick note: while it was supposedly first confirmed in November, a relative in California – who had close contact with the Southeast Asian community there – had been infected with some strain which “was like the flu” that she “couldn’t breathe” and “they don’t know what it is” that September. It makes one think.

Call it a bit of pure luck but the idea of implementing a live commentary to the Fair races already being filmed began at the Delaware Qualifiers. A simple concept culled from a sports talk radio program and an award-winning TV show called *Main Streets and Back Roads of New England* and present it with our Ohio harness racing broadcast: several people, versed in different aspects of our business, as they present the races. Segments could be offered as to the places and personalities of the town and county. Their history, their triumphs, and showcase the best of the area, get everyone to want to come to The Fair and for those who couldn't make it, mark their calendars for next year.

Histories were kind of easy thanks to the research done for Text Trivia.

The telecasts would exponentially go from over fifty events eventually up to 126. The broadcast crews went from just one dude on air and a cameraman to a whole cast of supporting players.

And still the questions remain:

 **Paulding** 

Text Trivia

What horse was the first to best 1:50 when he paced a mile in 1:49.1m?

- A) Albatross
- B) Niatross
- C) Nihilator

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