



sports

By DON BECK
(Guest Columnist)

Off to the Races

CULINARY WORKERS will have their own day at the races next Sunday, Oct. 3, when Thunderbird Downs plays host to members of Local No. 266.

Joe Wells, president of the Nevada Racing Association, which operates Thunderbird Downs, said clubhouse facilities will be reserved for the exclusive use of culinary workers and their families and the day's racing will be devoted to honoring one of Southern Nevada's largest and most important unions. Culinary Union members and their families may obtain admission to the reserved and clubhouse areas by presenting their paid-up union cards at any of the stairway entrances. Union officials expect more than 500 members for the gala afternoon of sport, entertainment and relaxation.

Feature race on the 12-race program will be the Culinary Workers Union Purse and union officials will be in the winner's circle to present a commemorative blanket to the winning horse and its trainer.

New Track Planned

THUNDERBIRD DOWNS opened its sixth meeting Sept. 11 for 22 days of horse racing. Post time is 1 p.m. each day of the meeting, which continues through Nov. 21 on Saturdays and Sundays.

Since returning legalized racing to Nevada late in 1963, Thunderbird Downs has shown steady growth in attendance and the quality of racing. Wells and his associates will build a modern, air-conditioned new track to give the sport of kings a permanent home in the area when the present Joe W. Brown plant behind the Las Vegas Convention Center is dismantled after the current meeting.

Among the horses now competing at Thunderbird Downs are some of the summer's outstanding performers in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Oregon and Montana. Still other top horses are expected to arrive when late summer racing concludes on the California Fair Circuit and in Washington.

It's All for Free!

A HIGHLIGHT of the meeting is the Thunderbird Marathon Series, matching cheaper horses over classic distances up to one and 5/8 miles. A stakes program for leading three-year-olds and older horses currently active in the Southwest also is being conducted at present.

Admission to Thunderbird Downs is free, with a small extra charge for seats in the grandstand and box seat areas. In addition to regular parimutuel wagering, Thunderbird Downs offers popular daily double and quinella betting.

(Getting back to next Sunday's gala program at the Downs, it occurs to us that some of those guys and dolls in the Culinary Union should do all right for themselves at the parimutuel windows. We understand some of our waiters and waitresses around town get some mighty fine "tips" from time to time!

(Them's "tokes?" No jokes on the old folks, you blokes!)

(TWIN, from page 1)

believe they were victims of a bankruptcy action, if nothing worse.

The Las Vegas SUN contacted Mastos at his Reno home on Sunday and came out Monday morning with a story at the top of page 1 quoting the Insurance Commissioner as strongly emphasizing that his petition, upon which the temporary restraining order was based, "absolutely in no way alleges insolvency on the part of Mark Twain Insurance."

THE SUN STORY FLATLY STATED that Mastos claimed the financial status of the insurance company was not even at issue in the current state action against the firm. The SUN said "Mastos thus affirmed" the contention of a company spokesman published the previous day that Mark Twain was "financially sound." (See adv. page 4.)

Shortly after the SUN story appeared on the newsstands, Judge Waters amended his restraining order to permit the insurance company to meet "ordinary and necessary" business obligations, including limited use of its checking account for payment of premiums, office expenses and specified other purposes. (Significantly, Judge Waters' modifications of his original order to Mark Twain were suggested by Ormsby County District Attorney Ted Stokes, acting as a private attorney for the insurance company. Asst. Ormsby County Dist. Atty. J. MacArthur Wright is secretary-treasurer for Mark Twain and a partner with Stokes in the highly-respected Carson City law firm of Davis, Stokes and Wright.)

By now it was abundantly clear that Mark Twain Life Insurance Co. most assuredly was not in receivership. Also established was the fact that the interests of all investors and policy-holders in the wholly stockholder-owned firm were being fully protected. Not only was the court keeping a watchful eye on developments, but angry officials of the beleaguered insurance firm were mapping damage suits for libel and slander against various parties "as soon as the company is cleared of these ridiculous charges on Oct. 11."

ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT released by Mark Twain publicist L. Lew Hardy, publisher of Virginia City's celebrated Territorial Enterprise, once the "voice" of the great American humorist for whom Nevada's first home-owned insurance company was named, an analysis of the Mastos petition for a restraining order revealed that the Insurance Commissioner's several complaints against the Mark Twain

firm were based on obvious misinterpretations of Nevada insurance regulations and established insurer practice.

The company statement unequivocally denied allegations by Mastos that he was refused access to the Mark Twain records; that the firm made illegal loans to its officers and directors; that the firm promoted false advertising; that the firm was a party to illegal loans and investments involving out-of-state real estate deals; that illegal commissions were paid to unlicensed agents and brokers; that the company's non-salaried president and executive vice president, C. Larry Frisby and W. Mark Eddington, respectively, were overpaid; that the firm made illegal loans to officers, directors, agents and employees, and that the company had signed illegal business contracts with three Nevada corporations.

The statement also charged that, "Since the death of former insurance commissioner Paul Hammel, with his great insurance executive abilities, the insurance department has been completely uncooperative and discriminatory in its actions against" the Mark Twain company, and that, "Since the time Doug Erickson was acting commissioner, during the interim period before the appointment of Louis Mastos by Gov. Grant Sawyer, the Mark Twain Life Insurance Co. and its executive officers have had reason to believe that both Erickson and Mastos exceeded their authority, and the company has reason to believe that the insurance department has acted in a methodical and biased manner to deliberately curtail the progress of the company . . ."

It was further alleged that Mastos has allied himself with a group of five Mark Twain directors who have consistently harrassed and opposed the company's organizers and executive committee headed by Frisby and Eddington. The statement claimed this anti-administration clique has thwarted the seating of three "honored citizens of the State of Nevada" properly named to the company's directorate and their action was "condoned" by Mastos until Mark Twain attorneys "convinced Mr. Mastos he had no jurisdiction in this matter."

There seems little doubt as to whom the Mark Twain executives consider their chief tormentor.

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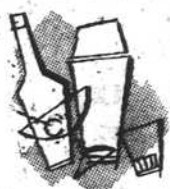
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