

REVIEW

Illinois racing maintained its record pace in 1993. Total handle was \$ 1,282,020,262, less than 1% off the all time high of 1992. Total revenue derived from racing was \$47,571,875. We conducted 1,053 race programs at seven racetracks, with average daily handle ranging from a high at Arlington International Racecourse of \$ 2,505,812 to a low at Quad City Downs of \$ 145,684.

Our twenty-first off-track betting parlor, the "Mudbug", owned and operated by Arlington, opened on June 4th on the near north side of Chicago. Off-track handle generated \$10,311,780 for local governments and accounted for 40% of all Illinois handle. Handle at intertrack sites accounted for an additional 25% of the total, while 35% was generated on-track.

Interstate simulcasting continued to expand last year. Over \$127 million was wagered in other states on Illinois races, an increase of \$45 million over 1992. Illinois patrons bet an additional \$47 million on races from other states, an increase of \$13 million over 1992.

Substantial capital improvements funded from one-half of the "breakage" were completed at all tracks. Race Track Improvement Fund expenditures included:

- 1) Sportsman's Park upgraded the grandstand air conditioning at a cost of \$275,000.
- 2) Maywood Park expended more than \$250,000 on clubhouse improvements, including an automated temperature control system and remodeling of the dining room.
- 3) Balmoral Park completed several backstretch improvements including new roofs, painting and general restoration of barns, a new sound system, new telephone lines, asphalt

paving and improvements in the drainage system at a cost of \$250,000.

4) Hawthorne installed new locks and a security system for its entire facility at a cost of \$150,000, and miscellaneous backstretch, track and equipment improvements at a cost of \$225,000.

5) Arlington International Racecourse, Inc. performed miscellaneous backstretch improvements at a cost of \$51,500.

The horse POLAR EXPEDITION was elected 1993 Illinois Thoroughbred of the Year and Champion Two-year-old Colt/Gelding after winning the Grade II Arlington-Washington Futurity and the Grade II Keeneland Breeders' Futurity. The gelding is a major contender for the 1994 Kentucky Derby. POLAR EXPEDITION is owned by James B. Cody and trained by Hugh Robertson. His lifetime earnings are \$329,025.

The 1993 Illinois Harness Horse of the Year was AJ'S DAD with earnings of \$237,100. AJ'S DAD is owned by Al Johnson, trained by Terry Medine and driven by Dan Knox. The colt won 13 of 24 starts in 1993 including the \$120,000 Maywood Pace.

The Illinois Racing Board Laboratory continued its leadership in the Association of Racing Commissioners' International Quality Assurance Program, and once again performed at 100% accuracy in the blind sample testing program. Chief State Veterinarian, Dr. Ronald Jensen, served as chairman of the Veterinarian Advisory Committee of the International Quality Assurance Program, while laboratory director, Shelley Kalita, served as an officer on the Chemist Advisory Committee and was awarded a fellowship in the Association of Official Racing Chemists.

The Board amended its rules governing

excessive use of phenylbutazone by requiring mandatory fines, suspensions and purse redistributions for repeat violators. Phenylbutazone violations decreased by 300% as a result.

The laboratory identified and reported several drugs for the first time in the United States including "caine" family anesthetics such as mepivacaine and lidocaine, the respiratory drug cromolyn and the tranquilizer azacyclonol. A record 58 positive reports were issued.

Fingerprint reciprocity with other jurisdictions was implemented in accordance with the policies of other states and the recommendations of the Association of Racing Commissioners' International. The new rule eliminates fingerprint submission requirements for applicants already licensed in other states, and significantly reduces the license application burden for Board staff as well as license applicants.

A local area network was installed at the Chicago central office. The network provides a gateway connection to the State's computer mainframe and allows access by all Board employees to numerous databases and programs. Our Pari-Mutuel Information and Tracking System is the model technology for racing regulators throughout the country. Comprehensive subsystems include Licensing, Revenue, Funds Distribution, Stewards Rulings, Lasix, Veterinarian's Lists and Drug Testing.

The Board collected a total of \$110,440 in disciplinary fines in 1993, including a \$10,000 fine from the AmTote totalisator company for repeated violations of Board rules. Additionally, 246 steward rulings were issued suspending or denying occupation licenses.

Racetrack announcer Phil Georgeff, an institution in Chicago racing for over 30 years, announced his retirement on December 31st. Mr. Georgeff called over 96,000 races. The Board adopted a resolution in honor of Mr.

Georgeff, and December 26, 1993 was designated Phil Georgeff Day at Hawthorne Race Course.

The Board's chief thoroughbred steward, Hall-of-Fame jockey Bill Hartack, also announced his retirement at the end of the 1993 thoroughbred season.

The City of Chicago became the first municipality in the state to levy a tax on OTB admissions. The Board collected \$1.3 million in admissions in 1993 from the four off-track facilities located in Chicago.