

Training horse requires loving care

by Roy Jernigan

The world of sports is full of many interesting and accomplished individuals, the sport of Kings, horse racing, is no exception. When spectators think of this sport they invariably dwell on the jockeys and horses as the participants without giving thought to the individual who is the underlying force which joins the jockey and animal together to form a winning combination.

Mr. Joe Patten, horse trainer, is considered to be one of the top trainers in the Northwest by his peers. It's important to note that I didn't preface that statement by referring to him as a Black trainer. His records and accomplishments speak glowingly for themselves. According to Mr. Patten, "My most cherished record is my eight consecutive victories at Portland Meadows." By any standard, eight victories in consecutive starts is more than a measure of the man's ability. At the Playfair, in Spokane, Mr. Patten has averaged 16-18 wins per season over the last two years. He is the second leading trainer at The Playfair.

Joe Patten was born and raised in Jennings, Louisiana, where as a small farm boy his preoccupation with horses planted the seed for his future occupation. "As a kid I rode in the rodeos and worked the stockyards to learn my trade."

Life's travels found Mr. Patten in Portland in 1962 where his passion for horses led him to the Hitching Post stables to do a little riding, to Portland Meadows for a little sport, then to the backside of the track to satisfy his curiosity. How did it all begin? Mr. Patten said, "A guy asked if I could ride and I went to work for him leading horses around shed row."

After watching young Joe working with the horses the owner decided to



JOE PATTEN

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

allow Joe to train a mean mare that had recently been purchased. Not realizing that this opportunity was the stepping stone to his rising star, young Joe accepted the challenge and began to prepare the mare for her first start. "You treat horses like you do kids, when you finish training you come right back and make love to them." Testimony to the truth of his methodology is the fact that the mare won her first three starts.

In explaining his deft touch with horses, Mr. Patten responded, "I've always enjoyed working with crippled horses because the challenge to get the animal in racing condition gave me a sense of accomplishment. I simply enjoy the challenge."

Our interview took place in the stable area behind Portland Meadows, so much of the comments of people

passing by cannot be printed here but everything said, was said in fun and we all laughed. It is obvious that the

man is well liked and highly respected. "To me, the fact that I'm a Black man in a white man's sport, only means that I must be the best. When there is no joking around, then I begin to wonder and leave."

When asked about his future plans, Mr. Patten replied, "I've made Portland my home and now I would like to buy my own horses and race them for myself." For the younger generation interested in the sport, he advises, "Youngsters interested in riding or training should get as much time as they can being around the animals to learn the trade from the ground up."

Mr. Patten has three horses stabled at Portland Meadows this season, but, because of injuries, he has had only eight starts. In those eight starts, he has managed to get one second place finish and two thirds. He averages eight to 10 wins per season here, so start looking for his horses, Our Dream, Princess Array and Salty Cash, to cross the finish line in the money very soon.

African plight topic of panel

"East African Starvation — Inevitable or Preventable?" will be the subject of a panel discussion sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Oregon on Thursday, February 7. The program will be held in the Bank of California (fourth floor), 707 S.W. Washington, and will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Panelists will include Ellsworth Culver, President, and Fred Gregory, Director of Overseas Operations, for Mercy Corps International; and John Banda, an international economist who represented the U.S. National Bank on the Christmas Eve flight to Ethiopia of supplies and food donated by Oregonians.

Mr. Culver and Mr. Gregory have worked for Mercy Corps in its relief programs in East Africa, mostly in the Ethiopian provinces bordering the Sudan. Both have been featured in recent TV stories describing the innumerable human, logistical and political problems facing those involved in relief efforts.

Mr. Banda, who was born in Ma-

lawi and now works for U.S. World Trade Corporation, coordinated with World Vision and Evergreen Airlines the arrangements for shipment of some of the more than \$500,000 in supplies contributed by Oregonians before Christmas. He remained in Ethiopia in late December to visit relief centers and to learn more about the distribution of supplies.

Panelists will discuss the aid that is needed to meet the present crisis, but will also address the long-range prospects throughout East Africa for agriculture, food production, and conservation of resources. To what extent does politics affect the distribution of aid? How can Oregonians give effectively to this and other international relief projects?

The admission charge will be \$2.50 for World Affairs Council members, and \$3.50 for non-members. Call 229-3049 for reservations and information.

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In some parts of Europe it was once thought that a sheaf of corn, dressed as an old woman and placed in the barn would keep out mice.

Some people once believed that if they slept with their mouths open, their souls would escape.

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Seattle Blacks

(Continued from Page 1, Column 6)

speak for myself and I represent myself."

Seattle's Black population is 9.4 percent of Seattle's total population. In the article Rev. McKinney said the city's Black population was, "largely middle class." But some residents (and statistics) took issue with McKinney's perception. Seattle's unemployment rate is 9.4 for white, 16.7 for Blacks. The percentage of whites living below the poverty line is 9.1, but for Blacks it's 22.5. Thirty-two percent of Black students drop out of school and comprise 50 percent of all disciplinary actions.

The editors of *Seattle Times'* "Pacific" magazine said with these facts, "A special agenda is not inappropriate to write about it and the people who are assuming leadership to eradicate these problems."

Omari Tahir wondered why it was necessary, "For the Aryan press to choose leadership for us that is so dependent on charity and political hand-outs for survival? Where is the plan or plans to eliminate unemployment, drugs, crime, mis-education and Black economic powerlessness. The plan is the true test of effective leadership."

Otis Harris, a concerned community resident, said those chosen as leaders by the newspaper were "spokes in the wheel, but certainly not the wheel."

Fitzgerald Beaver, editor of *The Facts* newspaper, said his office has been bombarded with calls concerning the article. "There are many leaders in the business community that were left out because the writer did not know or recognize any Blacks in the business community. They can only write about issues and people based on information they receive from those accessible because they are seeking the limelight."

Ironically, the editors of "Pacific" openly questioned, "Is it racist to focus on leadership within Seattle's Black community?" If you chart the response from residents, they would say the way "Pacific" did its research, the answer would be "Yes."

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