

In Spring....their thoughts turn to / Post Time

by Elane Blanchet
While Morrow County may generally be considered Quarter Horse country, there are some horsemen here who prefer Thoroughbreds. In the spring their thoughts turn not to love—or cattle branding—but to the excitement of horse racing.

Take the Papineau family of Lexington, for example.

Brothers Ray, Wayne and Earl caught the racing fever while still in their teens more than 20 years ago and, with the exception of Wayne, who dropped out in favor of 'rodeoing', have been taking horses to the track ever since.

A stable of five thoroughbreds, each one a winner at tracks in the Northwest last year, are headed to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, this week with Ray and his wife Gay, the principal trainer of the racers. There, they will be testing the competition for a few months before moving on to the next track on the annual circuit. Earl, also a trainer, and his wife Charlene, will join them whenever work schedules permit.

The Papineaus, though off-hand unable to point to dollar figures, say the joint family venture is profitable. They race their horses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, and hope this year to race in Canada, at tracks in Saskatoon and Regina, for the first time.

Last September one of their best money-makers, a six-

year-old gelding named Pouret, established a new track record in a six-furlong race in Walla Walla and then came back the next day to break his own record. Acquired in a claiming race, Pouret has more than paid his way for the Papineaus.

The other horses included in the stable are Sally Diane, You-Ruff-It, Gain-a-Dolla and Harp's Joy, all mares who won their share of races during last year's season.

Last year Gay Papineau was presented with a gold belt buckle at the West Washington Fair in Puyallup, honoring her as the leading trainer for the second year in a row.

Gay and her brother-in-law Earl have done most of the active training of the horses since Ray injured his back two years ago. Gay jokingly referred to her husband as a 'straw boss'.

"He doesn't do much of the labor now, but he sure does a lot of bossing," she said.

Another member of the family involved in the racing business is Ray and Gay's daughter Connie Eng who has been exercising girl for the Papineau horses since she was nine years old. All spring Connie has been 'galloping' the five thoroughbreds up to two miles a day, getting them in shape to join the race track circuit. Married to Louie Eng, Connie admits she would like to be a jockey but said, "Three sons and a husband puts a stop to that idea."



Exercise girl Connie Eng gallops one of the five Papineau thoroughbreds on a daily two mile run, in preparation for the racing season which will start for the Papineaus this weekend in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Charlene Papineau was also a trainer at one time and points with pride to one of her horses, Burn's Bouquet. The racer finished a season in the late 1960s at some of the bigger tracks including Portland Meadows with five wins, six seconds and several thirds. "I made a living on that

horse," she said. Charlene explained that she now takes a less active part in the Papineau racing venture because she got tired of all the pressure in the business.

Gay, however, is another story.

"I can't wait to get started," she said last week. "Either

you enjoy racing or you just don't do it."

The Papineaus, of course, aren't the only Morrow County residents with race horse fever.

Trainer Dan Tanory, who established his headquarters on a ranch on Willow Creek six years ago, is on the race track

circuit year round. He is currently racing 19 thoroughbreds at Portland Meadows—five owned by his wife Joan and 14 horses he has trained for other owners. Tanory has been in Portland since October and will move on to the Seattle track in May.

Brood mares, foals and horses injured at the track are kept on the Willow Creek ranch, managed by the Tanory's daughter, Cheryl Padberg. She says her father is doing well at Portland Meadows again this year.

Tanory, a former fireman in Boring, has been training horses for more than 11 years and the side-line which started as a hobby has made up a good part of his livelihood since he injured his back a few years ago.

Among local horses he has trained is a three-year-old mare named Skins and Bruises, owned by Morris McCarl of Lexington, another thoroughbred racing enthusiast. McCarl has owned about 20 race horses all told but now has just one mare. She hasn't actually raced yet, since she got sick at the Portland track last year as a two-year-old, but will soon have a chance to show her stuff when the McCarls take her to tracks in Waitsburg and Dayton, Wash., this spring.

Mary Ann Greenup, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Greenup, raises Quarter Horses on her father's ranch outside of Heppner, but



Trainer Gay Papineau leads in another 'winner' for Connie to exercise on the family make-do track in Lexington. Gay won a gold buckle at the Western Washington Fair last summer for being named the leading trainer for the second consecutive year.

showing no partiality, also has a four-year-old thoroughbred mare, Papagill's Delight, in training now. The mare pulled

a muscle in her first start last year, but if all goes well, will race in Yakima in May and then move on to the Seattle track.

More involved in raising thoroughbreds than racing them are Walt and Charlene Nix who own four brood mares on their place up Balm Fork a few miles from Heppner. The Nixes usually race one horse a year but the prospect for this season, a three-year old mare named Quick Trip, injured a

leg in a training accident at Salem last year and they won't know if she'll be ready to race until later on.

The Nixes have been involved with thoroughbreds for about 25 years, racing at tracks in Oregon, Washington and California. Walt said they only raced one horse at a time because training fees cost from \$16 to \$20 a day during the season. He added, jokingly, "Charlene's job is to support the horses."

While not a big business in Morrow County, thoroughbred racing has a definite place in traditionally Quarter Horse country.

Summer outlines initiative petition

State Representative Jack Sumner (D-Heppner) last week outlined the provisions of an initiative petition that is being circulated to allow voters to determine whether or not the death penalty be re-instated in Oregon. State Representatives Bud Byers, D-Lebanon and Cecil Johnson, R-Grants Pass have joined Sumner as sponsors of the petition.

Sumner said that the measure "goes out of its way" to protect the rights of the defendant.

A person accused of a murder subject to capital punishment would be given two trials. The first trial would determine guilt or innocence. Then a separate, second trial, is held to see if the death penalty is justified.

If the sentencing court imposes the death penalty, that decision is automatically referred to the Oregon State

Supreme Court where review is required within 60 days.

Sumner said if the death penalty is not imposed, the defendant automatically receives a life sentence with a minimum confinement of 25 years required.

He said the measure meets the constitutional criteria as currently viewed by the United States Supreme Court and is based largely on the California law.

"The Legislature has refused to give people the right to vote on this issue," Sumner said. "If this petition drive is successful, and I think it will be, Oregon voters will determine if they want a capital punishment law enacted."

Anyone wishing to help on the petition drive can contact Rep. Jack Sumner at Room H-276, State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310. Each petition can have up to 20 signatures. Indicate the number of petitions requested.

Willows CWA at Kinzer home

Klara Kinzer will be hostess for Willows C.W.A. Friday, April 21. This will be an all-day meeting. Members are asked to bring salads or desserts.

Millmans hosts family guests

Family guests for the Easter weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leland Millman, Ione, included: Mr. and Mrs. Gary Owen and two daughters, Baker; Mr. and Mrs. Lance Whitmore and five children, Canyon City; Mr. and Mrs. Don Brown and two daughters, Montesono, Wash.; and Casey Owen, Roseburg.

Ione Cardinal Club plans open house

The Cardinal Club of Ione Schools will hold their final meeting of the year Thursday, April 13, featuring an all-school open house.

President Irene Holtz will preside at a brief business meeting beginning at 8 p.m., prior to the open house.

Some of the elementary school classes will entertain informally with various exercises which are part of the regular curriculum at the school. Following the program, refreshments will be served and all classrooms will be open for visitation.

The Cardinal Club invites the public to attend the meeting and take advantage of the opportunity to view the classrooms.

Spring boutique of fashion in Boardman

An evening of fun and fashion will be sponsored by St. Patrick's Altar Society of Irrigon and Boardman on Thursday, April 13, as the Spring Bouquet of Fashion gets underway at 7:30 p.m. in the lounge of the Nomad Restaurant in Boardman.

Fashions modeled at the group's seventh annual style show and card party will be from J.C. Penney's in the Columbia Center in Kennewick, Wash.

Pinochle and bridge is planned after the style show. Tickets for the event may be purchased at the door for \$1.75. Refreshments will be served and special prizes awarded.

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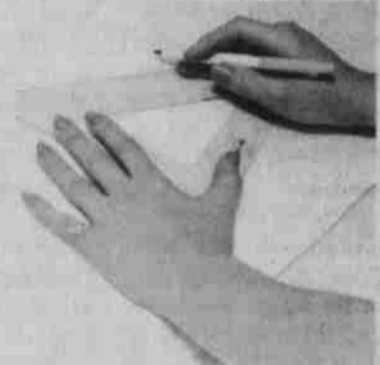
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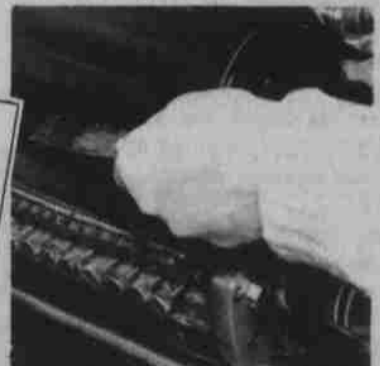
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WILL HOLD THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Wednesday, April 12

with a **PIZZA FEED**

West of Willow Restaurant

Beginning at 7 p.m.

Your organization is what you make it...and what you want it to be...Don't miss!