

Jockey Who Turned Art Facts Into Money Loves Playing Cards

Editor's Note: This is the second in a three-part series on the incredible life of Billy Pearson, the 36-year-old jockey who won \$96,000 on quiz shows less than six months ago and now is broke.

BY HAL WOOD
United Press Correspondent
San Mateo, Calif.—(U.P.)—Billy Pearson, the little jockey who astonished the nation with his knowledge of art while winning \$96,000 on quiz programs, says he doesn't have a good memory. "It is good only to remember art," he says. "People who win on those quiz programs are supposed to have photographic memories."

"In my case, that worked only in the case of art. I studied long and hard to know what I knew about the subject. In my chosen profession, riding thoroughbreds at race tracks, I have no better a memory than the next guy."

"In fact, some people think I'm absent minded. Once the judges thought I had forgotten how many laps were left to go in a marathon race and hollered at me to get going because I was trailing the field on a 1-10 shot. I knew how many laps there were to go—and I also knew my horse. We came on to win easily."

Loves Cards
It is possible that Billy's memory applies also to cards. He is a high stakes gambler and loves nothing better than a 12-hour session with the pasteboards—casino, gin, or just about any game you care to mention.

"I've made a lot of money gambling with cards—and I've lost just as much," he says. "I played casino every day and every night for six months with another jockey, Ralph Neves, one time. We played for \$20 a hand and at one time I was \$6,000 ahead. But we ended about even."

Another time Pearson lost a new home he had just bought and paid for in Pasadena, Calif. "I was in Hong Kong and went over to the little island of Macao to do some gambling," he says without a trace of sadness. "I was playing chemin de fer and I lost more than I had with me—in fact, \$12,000 more than I had with me. So the gamblers sent three big 'goons' to live with me until I repaid. It took me two days to get the right atmospheric conditions to call my mother in California and tell her

to sell my house for \$12,000 cash. "I got the money back in eight days. During that time the three thugs spent every day with me—and I imagine they had a spotter on my lodgings all night. I never was so glad to pay off a debt in my life—and get out of there."

He went from there to the Asiatic mainland to ride for the Maharajah of Kula Lumpur in a pony race.

"The worst part about that contract," he said, "was the fact that we had to ride in an armored car 30 miles through jungle infested with Communist sharpshooters who had killed about 35 persons in recent weeks. Incidentally, I didn't do well on the maharajah's pony—we finished out of the money."

One of Billy's hobbies—other than art—is riding at as many race tracks as possible and with this thought in mind he and his wife have visited most of the countries in the world that have racing.

"It, like art," he says, "is an expensive hobby. But you have to have fun in this world."

Kaiser Expansion Program Started

Oakland, Calif. — (U.P.) — Kaiser Steel Corporation has undertaken an additional \$81 million expansion program designed to make the firm the largest steel producer west of the Mississippi.

Jack L. Ashby, vice president and general manager of Kaiser Steel, said Monday the new program is in addition to a \$113 million expansion program.

The entire program is scheduled for completion by mid-1958 and will increase the company's annual ingot capacity from 1,536,000 tons to about three million tons.

Most of the new facilities will be at the Fontana, Calif., plant, but the newest program also encompasses improvements at the company's iron and coal properties at Eagle Mountain, Calif., Sunnyside, Utah, and Raton, N. M.

The Fontana improvements call for 90 new coke ovens, a second sinter plant, a new blast furnace, a third oxygen steel-making furnace, two additional soaking pits and conversion of the existing 110 inch plate mill to a 144 inch plate mill.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Atlantic City—President Walter Reuther of the United Auto Workers in describing his union's new public review board: "It will be a board with broad powers and responsibilities. This is the real thing with no ifs, ands, buts or loopholes."

New York—President Ernest G. Swigert of the National Association of Manufacturers, charging that labor leaders, not employers, are exploiting the workers of America: "When an individual must join a union and subject himself to union discipline to make a living for his family, he can neither cry out in protest nor resign when the self-perpetuating leaders of the union betray his trust."

New York—Comedian Jackie Gleason, in announcing he will retire from his weekly television show June 23: "Come June 23 and I will sit down and remain seated. I'm all done with this week to week thing."

Hollywood—Film star Rita Hayworth, on whether she will send daughter Yasmin to France and the side of the ailing Aga Khan, the child's grandfather: "That is too long a trip for me to send my seven-year-old daughter alone."

New Orleans—Lightweight boxer Ralph Dupas of New Orleans who overcame attempts to rule him ineligible to box against whites in Louisiana, after his victory over Vince Martinez: "I won this one for the hometown."

Madison, Wis. — (U.P.) — The state crime laboratory turned its murder victim over to the anthropologists Tuesday on advice of University of Wisconsin Professor William Laughlin. The professor told them they'd never get to court with the case. The victim, unearthed at a construction site, was identified by Laughlin as an American Indian who apparently was killed with a tomahawk about 1200 A.D.

VASS YOU DERE CHOLLY?
Rockford, Ill. — (U.P.) — Magistrate Stuart Nordquist let "Charley" Frakes, 20, of Marion, Iowa, off with a reprimand for illegally wearing Army insignia. He added a \$50 fine when he discovered "Charley" was really Miss Charlotte Frakes.

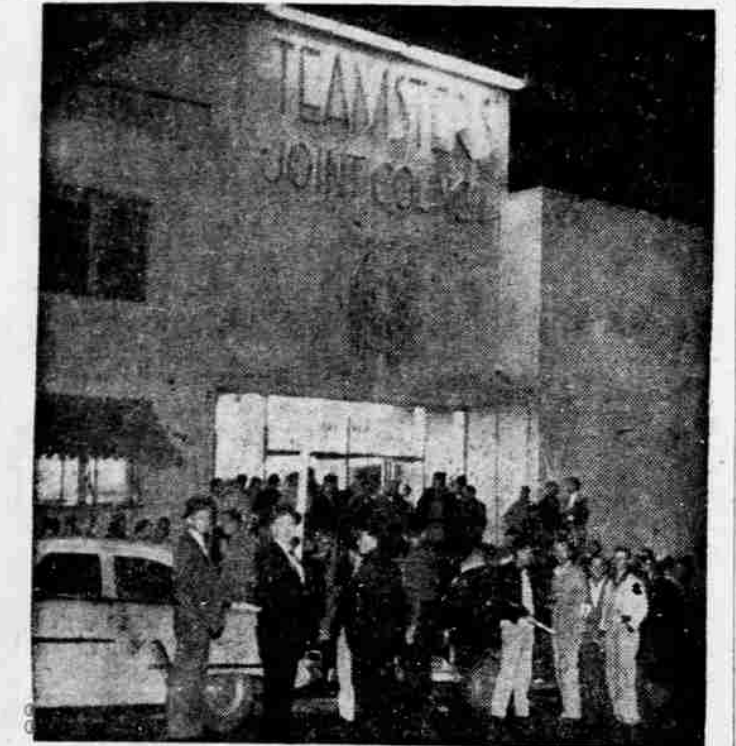
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TEAMSTER TEMPEST—Teamsters, angered over the financial manipulations of some of the union's top leaders, turned out in such huge numbers at Portland, Ore. that their meeting had to be called off until a larger hall could be obtained. The regular meeting normally draws just a handful of members. Five hundred of the 1500 who showed up had to stand outside of the building that houses Local 162.

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood — (U.P.) — One-time baby star Shirley Temple, away from show business for seven years, makes her "come-back" and TV debut next fall, but her main job, she says, still will be as "a happy wife and mother."

After turning down movie and TV offers since she "retired" in 1950, Shirley finally consented to be hostess and narrator for a series of color spectaculars based on famous fairy tales.

"This will be kind of a funny little addition to my life," explained grown-up Shirley, now Mrs. Charles Black, on the telephone from her home in Atherton, near San Francisco.

Away From Home
"I'm very happy here—and how! I've been approached many times with TV and movie offers, but they always required my being away from home longer than I liked. My family though several weeks was too long for Mama to be gone."

in suburban Atherton. Her husband is with the Stanford Research Institute, and she lives as a typical commuter's wife. She is bringing up her three children—Susan, 9; Charles Jr., 5; Lori, 3—without benefit of household help.

She also dabbles in an interior decorating business and is active in seven children's charities. For one charity she's publicity chairman and Shirley Temple, the one-time film star, now is on the other side of the fence as a press agent.

One Finger Typist
"Now I know what movie publicists go through," she laughed. "I hate to type releases—with one finger—for nine to 11 newspapers. I'm so proud when I see one of my stories in print. The papers have been very gracious. They joked at first about my being a press agent."

Besides presiding at charity meetings seven days each month she says she loves to cook and keep house.

Shirley has copies of her famous movies of 20 years ago and has shown them to her children. Next fall all children will see them when her baby pictures such as "Little Miss Marker" hit the TV screens. They are part of the 20th Century-Fox backlog sold to TV.

"I'll be competing with my younger self on television," said Shirley.

"I'll do that show on our vacation so my family can be with me," she said firmly. The pretty Mrs. Black, who'll be 29 April 23, is "so happy with my life"

Unoccupied Barracks Damaged in Blaze

Central Point — The boiler room, the floor above it and the stairway were damaged by flames Sunday night in a fire in an unoccupied barracks at White City last night. Central Point rural firemen said.

Smoke and heat damage were also reported. The barracks was back of White City Realty company. Firemen said the cause was unknown. Flames were coming out both sides of the building when they arrived. The alarm was turned in about 8:50 p.m.

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