

## REVIEW

1987 was a very important year for Illinois horse racing. Significant strides have been made for the benefit of the horse racing industry with the implementation of innovative programs that can only serve to strengthen the integrity of horse racing in the State of Illinois.

The Board awarded 1,137 days of racing (thoroughbred and harness) for the year 1987. The combined wagering activity in Illinois was \$954,637,340 which was an increase of \$126,290,506 or 15% over last year.

1987 saw the introduction of the Illinois Wagering Protocol which created a network that allows wagering from satellite facilities throughout the entire State to be transmitted into one common wagering pool. Through the expansion of intertrack wagering, the 1987 intertrack handle increased by 50% to \$287,322,693.

With the enactment of PA 84-1468 each trace track is permitted to open and conduct intertrack pari-mutuel simulcast wagering at two locations off the race track premises in accordance with mileage perimeters. Two such intertrack wagering facilities opened in 1987, one in Peoria in September and the other in Rockford in November. The Peoria and Rockford Facilities have generated \$493,753 in revenue to the State based on a total handle of \$11,839,425. Included in PA 84-1468 are revenue sources for municipalities and counties wherein intertrack wagering facilities are located. Each receives 1% of the wagering activity at these locations. The Board has received applications and awarded licenses for six additional intertrack wagering locations with an anticipated startup during 1988.

Revenues to the State totalled \$57,096,894 or an 11% increase. This increase was due mainly to the expanded intertrack wagering in the latter part of the year. Effective July 1, 1987, the State tax rate decreased to 1% on the first \$400,000 of wagering and 2% of the excess of \$400,000 for all intertrack wagering handles. On January 1, 1988, a lower tax rate will go into effect for on-track wagering activity.

The new modular racetrack laboratory facility at Sportsman's Park was in place and operational in September, 1987. During 1987, the facility serviced Sportsman's Park and Hawthorne Race Course race meetings. Construction cost of the custom designed modular laboratory facility was \$163,739. The laboratory is equipped with state of the art analytical instrumentation. The laboratory is staffed with a director, supervisor and two laboratory technicians.

Pre-race blood testing began during the thoroughbred meet at Hawthorne Race Course on September 23, 1987. The laboratory is presently capable of screening for up to five classes of drugs by recently developed immunoassay methods. 3,959 immunoassay screening tests were performed on 1,968 pre-race blood samples at this facility between September 23rd and the end of 1987. Extensive methods development and research has also been performed to enhance screening capability and

identification by Gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GCMS). A quality assurance program was developed to assist the staff in the screening and confirmation techniques, including blind testing of samples were correctly identified and reported by the laboratory. Goals for 1988 included increasing the number of randomly selected races to be tested per day, expanding the program to include servicing Maywood Park and Balmoral Park locations and increasing the number and variety of drug tests available.

### SECURITY BARN

The statute allows the Board to detain all starters entered to race for up to five-hours in a security barn location. After consulting with racing veterinarians and chemists, a two-hour time period was determined to be adequate for our program needs.

After evaluating all Illinois tracks and initiating discussions with track management and horsemen's associations, the Board selected specific existing barn structures to serve as security facilities at each track. Consideration was given to the number of available stalls, proximity to the track, potential for congestion and construction as it relates to security at the facility. The level of security in the security barn area is largely dependent upon the vigilance of board employees and association security guards. Personnel selected to staff the security barn has come entirely from existing resources. This was accomplished by cross-training and broadening existing staff responsibilities.

Comparative performance statistics indicate that the security barn has had a negligible impact on the percentage of winning favorites and on the percentage of favorites finishing in the money. These statistics have tended to diffuse the horsemen's contention that the security barn program would cause many horses to race below their ability. The Board's veterinarians have not noted any increase in communicable diseases between horses at Illinois race tracks since the implementation of the security barn program.

### APPLICATIONS

In accordance with the amendatory language to the Horse Racing Act of 1975 (Section 15.3), the Board designed application forms to be completed by all mutuel clerks, parking attendants and security guards. The form requires the applicant to disclose under penalties of perjury, whether they:

- a) Ever were convicted of a felony;
- b) Ever were convicted of a misdemeanor involving dishonesty, fraud, deception or moral turpitude;
- c) Were ever excluded from a jurisdiction where pari-mutuel wagering is conducted;
- d) Have ever committed an act of touting, bookmaking, theft or fraud.

Since certain distinctions were made between those employees hired prior to July 1, 1987 and those hired on or

after that date, two forms were developed which required, essentially, the same information but in a different format.

The Board immediately reviews the applications as received to determine if the applicant has committed any of the above violations. The names, and certain other data, have been computerized and copies are sent to the State Police, track management and to Illinois Racing Board auditors, to ensure that the data is accurate and that forms have been completed by all individuals employed in a covered position.

#### LICENSING

The Board began fingerprinting all license applicants on July 1, 1987. The prints are forwarded to both the Illinois Department of State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for record information. As records from the above agencies are received they are compared to the applicant's license application to determine if there are infractions.

During the 1987 calendar year 8,938 thoroughbred licenses and 6,974 harness licenses were issued.

For the first time, all licensees who had been licensed the year before, received renewal forms by mail. This enabled thousands of renewal applicants the opportunity to renew by mail. The Board's new computerized licensing system is constantly striving to implement methods by which license seekers can apply with minimum difficulties and delays.

Another innovation occurred in 1987 with the implementation of the Pari-Mutuel Information Tracking System. This project automated the Board's licensing and registry capabilities. Over 90 Board users now have access to the PITS' 10 subsystems as well as access to electronic mail. The system data bases reside at the data center in Springfield and use state of the art hardware and software. All tracks, laboratories and central office have 24-hour access to the system through dedicated data circuits using communication controllers and SNA protocol. Board personnel have terminal access in the license office, steward's office and detention barn with over 75 component parts in operation.