

# Sports Splinters

By Murray Stone

THE 1978 GLEN TAY BLOCK RACE has entered the record books as the one having drawn the greatest number of entries over the history of the event, and all without any great publicity. TOM GRAHAM, the chief organizer of the annual race, feels that if they really wanted to promote the 9½ mile run, they could easily attract from 500 to 1,000 runners from across the country. As it is, they advertise very little, relying on word-of-mouth to carry the message. The various track clubs in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec are contacted and that's about the extent. With 112 entries this year, it's no problem to believe Tom's estimate of potential. There must have been a powerful upswing of interest this year with the dramatic jump from 64 entries last year. Possibly the influence of the Commonwealth Games had everyone thinking sports. The only drawback to setting a new record such as this is what do you do for an encore?

THE COMMENTS AROUND THE FINISH LINE on Thursday indicated that the Glen Tay Block Race indeed enjoys a classy reputation with the participants. Any comment noted was very favourable and complimentary to the organization. With city runners expressing these sentiments, then the local people must be doing an even better job than they get credit for. And, speaking of local people, the sports enthusiasts that line the route should be given a great deal of the credit for creating the good P.R. image of the Block Race. The entire 3 hours of the event are up-tempo. Every runner that heads up Gore Street to the finish line is greeted by shouts of encouragement, applause, and a general outpouring of good neighbourliness. And, you want to believe that this friendly feeling is a major factor in stamping Perth as THE place to head for on Glen Tay Block Race Day.

NOTES AND COMMENTS ON THE RACE: It was a race marked by a number of highlights including the fact that ALL 112 entrants finished the race; last year 61 of 64 completed the course, and rarely, if ever before has the entire field crossed the finish line... a 14 year old Ottawa East Lions runner by the name of PUNKY BAIRD placed 10th, less than 5 minutes back of the winner; how many youngsters of that age do you know who can do 9½ miles in 51 minutes, 25 seconds? Punky is a top rated Marathon Man for his age group and has run the 26 miles in 2 hours and 40 minutes... GUY RACINE of the Ottawa Kinsmen Harriers led for nearly all the race until the junction of Gore and the Scotch Line when Adam Shoemaker eased past him and held the lead to win by 14 seconds. The Harriers were out in force for this year's race and copped the top 4 places... ADAM SHOEMAKER is an outstanding runner with the Harriers; he attended Lisgar College at Ottawa and is now at Queen's; he is another example of a top athlete also being a top student... the PERTH runners gave it a good shot and one like GREG CANUEL stuck it out despite near exhaustion; in fact, Greg credits fellow Perth runner Dick Noonan with keeping him going when he wanted to call it a day... TOM GRAHAM who ran the 9½ miles on an empty stomach, not having eaten since 1 p.m. would have second thoughts about trying that again; he very nearly had to drop out of the race at a point near Ken Barr's but walked a mile, felt better, and continued to finish; now there's a guy who's no quitter... JUDY SCOTT the 1978 MISS PERTH, performed her duties with beauty and grace, as the Town's official representative, and a LOT of guys were glad she was there with the medals to go around their necks because a kiss from the Queen also became part of the awards, and NOBODY BUT NOBODY forgot that part of the ceremonies; they may have forgotten to take their Legion t-shirts with them, but not their kiss; it was noteworthy how fumblefooted a few of the nimble-footed athletes became at this juncture of the awards; it might be a thought another time not to stage the presentation on the steps of Matheson House... That noted Perth benefactor named BENNY K came through again with a couple of surprise gifts as he awarded gift certificates to the top Junior man and girl runner for a new pair of jogging shoes; Benny, this is just to let you know those shoes were REALLY appreciated by the recipients; the guy that won was as happy with the shoes as with his medal... It was good to see JACK WILSON there as part of the official party because it was Jack and his late Dad Bill who did so much for this race over the years of its resurrection from 1967 through the early 70's; the athletes of those days went away loaded down with shirts, ties, socks, you name it, as well as the trophy. No one has done more for the Glen Tay Block Race, and we congratulate Tom and the Legion for keeping the Wilsons involved as part of this annual event.

IT'S A WELL KNOWN FACT THAT EVERYONE LOVES AN UMPIRE, and it's therefore a tough job to belabour these hard-working baseball men, BUT, there are times when it is difficult to ignore some of the decisions that are made. FOR INSTANCE, in a recent game between Lanark and McDonalds, there were runners on second and third, the Lanark runner was trapped off third heading for home, the runner at second zipped across to third, the catcher dropped a relay to home, and the "Trapped" runner went safely back to third. NOW, there are TWO runners standing on third, and that's not the ideal situation, so the runner who had "emigrated" from second decided to return home and reclaim his base, thereby correcting the matter. Bear in mind that NO ONE WAS TAGGED. The base umpire proceeded to rule that the poor guy on second was OUT apparently believing that somehow it was "unsportsmanlike" for two runners to occupy the same base. An appeal was made to the home plate umpire and he concurred, thereby proving that neither knew the rules. THERE IS NO AUTOMATIC OUT in a situation like this, and how an assumption such as this could be made is totally strange. The runner trapped between third and home is entitled to return to third (the last base he legally occupied) unless tagged, and the same applies to the runner from second. Had Lanark lost the game, they sure had a protest to lodge. So as to not lay all this sort of thing on Lanark League umpires, a similar thing happened at the Renfrew Old Stars Tournament. There were runners on first and third, a ground ball was bounced to Bob Duncan at second, he bluffed the runner from first back to the bag even though the batter was racing to first as well, then waited till the runner on third was midway to the plate before rifling the ball home to nail the runner cold. Meanwhile back at first, two runners were stacked up on the same sack. Again, as at Lanark, No One Had Been Tagged, but the base umpire called the runner out. It was a bit ridiculous on the part of the players to get into that bind but just as ridiculous for the runner to be automatically ruled out. And, it all reminds us again of the Lanark Bantams game at Smiths Falls a month or so ago where the umpire there had a whole new interpretation of the infield fly rule, BUT has yet to provide the promised explanation.

# Far Away Places

By Dorothy Hitchins



"Bad Honningen", our strange name is that of the mineral springs situated on the Rhine River in Germany.

We were in the wine cellar of the relatives of the Linck Family who were my hosts. A member of the wine-making family in Ober Ingelheim always writes a poem, every year about that year's vintage, and also about the political situation, and it has apparently been a hit, to get the bottle of wine and the poem too. It seems (and I learned this later) that Momma had taken a real fancy to me, because I reminded her of a sister "Tante Toni". When she would pat me on the cheek or give me a hug, she was really showing me great warmth. The next day she said something to Hildegund, tucked my hand under her arm, and picked up a small covered pail and said "Kommonzee Dorazee" (at least that's what it sounded like to me.)

Away we went, really not much more than across the street where she rang a bell (again, everything looks locked or shut up tight). At once a farmer came and opened the big wooden gate that enclosed in the big courtyard. He bowed and spoke in German (of course

what else). I made out "Dorazee and Kanadah." He welcomed us in and while Momma went to the house to get the pail of milk, the farmer and I went into the barn which is attached to the house. Well, it was the cleanest barn I've ever seen. There were five cows, a sow and 13 piglets, several rabbits and a calf. The cattle are never out of the barn. I had asked about this, and that is why Momma took me there, so I could see for myself. The farmer patted a cow, and denoted cold, pointed to the window, shook his head for "why outside?" and said "Kanadah" meaning why did we make the poor animals go outside in the cold. Well, I was sort of stumped, but did the best I could. I too patted the cow, wrapped my jacket tighter around myself, and tried to show him that in Canada the cattle grow a heavier coat to keep them warm. He must have understood, because he smiled and said "Ah, zo" (and I thought it was Japan where they said that).

Our next stop was at a cousin's farm down the street and here they all came out to meet "Dorazee from Kanadah". A young boy was ever so pleased to be the spokesman for the

group. He had a smattering of English from his school. Next was the new mayor's home. Momma was obviously showing me off and here we had tea and cakes.

I want to tell you a cute thing about Ernst, or Poppa. In their lovely big bedroom was another of these vast, big beds, only Poppa had read, in German of course, that one should sleep with his head to the north and they did, because Poppa insisted on turning the bed so that the big headboard was in to the centre of the room, but they could sleep with their heads to the north. Quite a man was Ernst and Momma was in complete accord with anything he suggested, although I was never aware of his twisting anyone's arm in any way, or at any time.

The next day we started out in the car, to go across the Rhine — the same trip that those of you have seen if you have taken "The Rhine River Cruise". We did it by car. All along the Rhine are little and big castles or Schlosses and they look like fairyland castles. We crossed the busy river with the passenger cruise-boats and freighters sliding low in the water with their heavy cargos. We took the ferry boat first at Weinharn, I got out of the car. I was interested to see such a variety of licenses from different countries

on their cars. We got off at Mittelheim, and followed the winding road along the river up as far as Rudesheim. Hildegund and I walked up the narrow winding street of this resort village. There were little "bier gartens" open and people were gaily singing in most of them. The Germans love to sing and do it well. I took some snapshots, although it wasn't easy because there were so many people walking about. Then we went inland a bit, and up a very steep and winding road to the Nationaldenkma. This is a monument from a long-ago war and was made of wood and the Germans from all over the country came and by driving in thousands of nails they made it into a big monument of metal (at least by all appearances): There is a cable car going up to the monument for those who wish. On through Rossel and Assmanns-Hausen, past Burg Rheinstein (Rheinstein Castle) we went. It is one of the most beautiful castles and now houses precious arms and paintings.

On our side of the river was the famous old inn called Jagdschloss Neiderwald, well-known for its radioactive mineral water. In this area there seems to be castles all over the place. Momma would touch my arm and point out something else. Hildegund said, "You know, when you smile at Momma and nod your head, she's sure you understand what she's saying." There is a dear little, tiny, almost toy castle that is called Mauseturm (Mouse tower) which used to be a toll gate and is now used as a navigation station. Die Loreley, the legend-

ary rock tower was on our side, while Ruine Rheinfels and Boppard were on the other side of the river. Here the river snakes around in its course and the road too through all these little towns that some of you know. We crossed back before we got to Koblenz, so as to miss the traffic, and still the castles! I saw the words Schloss, Ober, Bad, etc. and gradually got to know what they meant.



Some of the 113 runners of Thursday's Glen Tay Block Race race along Gore Street between the rows of spectators and in the foreground watching Tom Graham [striped shirt] is wife Beth and daughter. Photo by Murray Stone



Tom Graham, the prime mover behind the annual Glen Tay Block Race, hits the finish line in 95th place after a tough race in which he had to stop and walk a mile before resuming and sticking it out to the end. Photo by Murray Stone



Rounding the turn, at full stride is Dave Girdwood on the Glen Tay Block course. Photo by Murray Stone

## Members sought to form new Perth Service Club

Bill Belnap is out on the streets hustling; he has until August 10 to sign up 20 prospective members, if Perth is to have its own Kinsmen Club by the beginning of September.

Right now, Belnap is practically fighting a one-man battle. He is the only local resident actively trying to establish a club, though he does have the backing of the Smiths Falls' group.

An earlier attempt at starting a Kinsmen club this spring failed because of a lack of commitment by those people in town who had expressed some interest in signing up.

Why, you might ask, does Perth need another service group?

Belnap says Kinsmen's, which services men 21 to 40 years of age, fills a gap.

"There's got to be something for everyone," he says.

The Kinsmen organization began in 1920, when Hal Rogers and a group of 12 charter members decided to form a fellowship club as an alternative to other, established groups at that time.

Since then, the Kinsmen's has grown into an organization encompassing more than 550 chapters and upwards of 15,000 members Canada-wide.

The club is the only organization of its type which is all-Canadian — it has no ties to a mother office outside the country — says Belnap.

The aim of the group is to serve its members and the community. To this end, various Kinsmen clubs are interested in activities which help others and promote the club and its activities and objectives: donating time, money and effort in helping out with the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton; sponsoring blood donor clinics; pro-

moting cross-country skiing; and other, numerous projects.

The national Kinsmen Club is also heavily involved with raising money for cystic fibrosis and Big Brothers and has built and is still maintaining a polio clinic in Kampala.

The group was also instrumental in establishing Heritage Day in February 1977.

On a more local basis, Kinsmen clubs sponsor baseball and hockey games and maintain a number of swimming facilities in many communities throughout the country.

Belnap says people who sign up now for Perth's Kinsmen's club will be "The building blocks" of this chapter.

For the first year, Belnap envisions more of a fellowship group than a large-scale service club; that will come after the club has had time to establish itself.

Fees for membership will be \$20 for applicants.

Anyone interested in joining Kinsmen's can contact Belnap at 267-4716 or, in the evenings, 267-3407.

## \$1,380 damage as car rolls

A 19-year-old Ottawa woman received minimal injuries Sunday afternoon when the car she was driving rolled over on County Road 3.

Beverly Weckworth, of 923 Pinecrest Rd., was southbound on the county road, four kilometres south of Stanleyville at 4:00 p.m. when the right side of her vehicle caught the roadway, crossed the highway into the east ditch and rolled over.

Damage to the car is estimated at \$1,380.

Auf Wiedersehen Dorothy.

COUNTY OF LANARK  
**Notice of Temporary Road Closing**  
County Road No. 4 — 2nd line of Drummond will be closed to through traffic from 8:00 a.m. Monday, August 14, 1978 to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 16, 1978 (in the area of Black Creek, Lot 23, Township of Drummond). A detour will be provided, however, the public is advised to use an alternate route if possible.  
R.B. Strachan, P.Eng.,  
County Engineer,  
County of Lanark

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