

A Guide to the Brooks Equestrian Photograph Collection, 1932-1986

Brooks Equestrian Photograph Collection 1932-1986
1932-1986

A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library VC 0051
Thomas Balch Library
2006

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History

Processed by: Lisa M Dezarn

Title Statement

A Guide to the Brooks Equestrian Photograph Collection, 1932-1986

Subtitle:

Collection: VC 0051

Author: Lisa M Dezarn

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

VC 0051

Language

English

Abstract

This collection contains twenty-six oversized photographs of equestrian competitions representing races at both the Charles Town Race Track and the Shenandoah Downs. Many of the items are mounted. The earliest dated photograph from 1932 was taken one year prior to West Virginia's legalization of the sport.

Creator

Linda Brooks

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Use Restrictions

Visual materials may require special handling.

Acquisition Information

Linda Brooks, Leesburg, VA

Processing Information

Lisa Dezarn 29 March 2013

Preferred Citation

Brooks Equestrian Photograph Collection (VC 0051), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Accruals

2011.0265

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

None

Bibliography

Bushong, Millard Kessler. A History of Jefferson County, West Virginia. 1941. Reprint, Bowie: Heritage Books, Inc., 2002.

Bushong, Millard Kessler. Historic Jefferson County. Boyce, VA: Carr Publishing Co., 1972.

Nations, Jeff. "Charles Town Celebrates 75 Years." The Journal, December 25, 2008. <http://www.journal-news.net/page/content.detail/id/513766.html>

"Shenandoah Downs," The West Virginia Encyclopedia, last modified October 29 2010, accessed February 22, 2013, <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/387>

Theriault, William D. "Charles Town Races," The West Virginia Encyclopedia, accessed February 22, 2013, <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1088>

Other Finding Aid

Past Perfect Catalog records

Technical Requirements

None

Historical Information

Horseracing was a popular amusement in Charles Town, West Virginia as early as 1786, and September 1808 issue of Farmer's Repository notified the public of three horseracing events the following month. Financed by private donations and club subscription fees, the sport flourished throughout the 19th century. The Shenandoah Valley Jockey Club, the first race track in the state, opened on 2 December 1933 in Charles Town shortly after West Virginia legalized racing and betting. The first two years proved financially unsuccessful. Convinced that promoting the race track during the winter season to residents in Washington and Baltimore would yield success, Albert J. Boyle (d. 1957) invested \$160,000 in the venture, rechristening the organization as the Charles Town Jockey Club. His prediction proved correct, the business thrived, and Boyle remained a prominent figure in West Virginia racing.

Seeing the financial rewards possible, a newly formed group of investors purchased property across the road

to construct a second race track. The group encountered resistance from churches opposed to gambling and the Charles Town Jockey Club, which wished to maintain its monopoly. After a contentious election, voters approved the new track by a narrow margin of 357 votes. Considerable litigation resulted in a decision by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals that allowed construction to continue. The new track, known as Shenandoah Downs opened in 1959. For two decades, the tracks competed for prime racing dates from the West Virginia Racing Commission. The rivalry ended in 1972 when the Shenandoah Corporation, owner of Shenandoah Downs, purchased the Charles Town Race Track. From that point forward year-round racing continued at Charles Town Race Track while the Shenandoah Downs operated as a training track.

Scope and Content

This collection contains twenty-six oversized photographs of equestrian competitions representing races at both the Charles Town Race Track and the Shenandoah Downs. Many of the items are mounted. The earliest dated photograph from 1932 was taken one year prior to West Virginia's legalization of the sport.

Arrangement

Folder

Contents List

Box 1

vc_0051_0001: [Unidentified Jockey on Horse] 1940-1950

vc_0051_0002: [Unidentified Man with Horse] 1940-1950

vc_0051_0003: [Unidentified Jockey on Horse with 5 Unidentified Men] 1940-1950

vc_0051_0004: [Unidentified Jockey on Horse] 1932

vc_0051_0005: Triumvirate 17 October 1939

vc_0051_0006: Flower Battle 30 June 1943

vc_0051_0007: Flower Battle 24 June 1944

vc_0051_0008: Flower Battle 24 June 1944

vc_0051_0009: Flower Battle 28 June 1944

vc_0051_0010: Patrician 17 July 1946

vc_0051_0011: Patrician 17 June 1946

vc_0051_0012: French Nine 19 July 1946

vc_0051_0013: French Nine 19 July 1946

vc_0051_0014: French Nine 03 June 1947

vc_0051_0015: French Nine 03 June 1948

vc_0051_0016: Patrician 03 July 1948

vc_0051_0017: Butler 31 May 1950

vc_0051_0018: French Nine 02 April 1950

vc_0051_0019: Hasty Break 22 July 1953

vc_0051_0020: Twirl 31 July 1953

vc_0051_0021: War Babu 31 May 1965

vc_0051_0022: Sugar Loch 28 June 1965

vc_0051_0023: Sugar Loch 08 September 1965

vc_0051_0024: Sugar Loch 07 October 1965

vc_0051_0025: Peebona 01 November 1965

vc_0051_0026: Strawberry Hill 12 April 1986