

Little Jack Gibson—A Bloomfield Hills Tradition

By JOE CADARU
Sports Editor

There was a party Saturday in Bloomfield Hills. Not an unusual occurrence. There also was a guest of honor—Jack Gibson.

Jack's just a little guy, about 5 feet 2 inches tall and not more than 120 pounds soaking wet. Jack will soon be 73 years old, and the residents of Bloomfield Hills decided it was about time they showed him their love and

appreciation for the many times he's made their lives a bit happier.

AT ONE TIME Jack Gibson was called the best horseman in "these parts." Now he has a stable job just off Hillwood Drive in the Hills, and boards the horses which belong to neighbors and friends.

Children often visit Jack while he's grooming his boarders. The children like Jack because he's always so nice. He's never too busy to smile or teach them how to ride,

or keep a stable clean.

He taught many of the Hills adults how to keep a horse under control when they were youngsters. More than often, a little boy or girl would be frightened of the horse. With kind words and assuring suggestions, Jack helped them overcome their fear.

NOW, QUITE a few years later, a grateful group of residents thought it was time they honored their friend.

The home of Henry Woodford was the site of the festive occasion and a large group turned out for the party.

Jack was all smiles.

He received a silver trophy and a large card signed by his friends. Embossed on the card was a picture of a young colt on wobbly legs, inscribed underneath was a poem written by a vice president of a large advertising firm.

The poem read:

The stable! That's the place to go To help with chores for an hour or so— Boot harness, saddle, and awdward stars About horses, and sports, and tender ears Come on! Let's go Jack's always there He's there in bed the horses down To find a smile, to chase a frown, Jack always makes us "try again" He's shown us all—made all seem while With patience, skill, and a special smile Jack makes us all—made all seem while Thanks, JACK—FOR THE HORSE SENSE

Jack WASN'T so comfortable during the party. He isn't used to such things. But, get the spy old-timer in his pants and you can't see a happier person.

All his life has been in one way or another associated with horses. Back in Lincolnshire, England, where he was born, Jack learned about horses from his father who was manager for Henry Chaplin, who at that time was Prime Minister of England.

Throughout the years, Jack was in hunt service, rode in steeple

chases, was a "whipper-in" for fox hunts, showed horses, trained horses and was involved in almost every conceivable diversion which involves horses.

JACK CAME from the United States in 1912 when he was 24 years old. He settled in the East and worked for the Standard Oil Co. moved to various places—all in the E. a 1-1/2-lymouth, Massachusetts—all the "high" "honey" places of that time.

He moved to Bloomfield Hills just before the depression in 1929. The Edward P. Hammonds brought him here to manage their stables. At this time the Hammonds dynasty spread across many acres of the beautiful hills north of Detroit.

Among other things, the family had its own polo team and a stable with about 30 horses. Jack was such an important man to the Hammonds, that they built him a home in which he and his wife raised a family of three boys, Richard, Frederick and Arthur.

intelligent man.

"I remember one time Higginson was outmated. He bought a bull for \$18,000 in order to show him. Thing about it, the man who sold Mr. Higginson the bull took first place with another bull he owned."

JACK LIVES in simple quarters behind the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mitchell.

Jack's not alone. He's got an abundance of friends—his neighbors, the people who honor him Saturday—and probably more important to Jack, the few horses he cares for.

And one of his star boarders is a horse called "Diablo," which is now owned by a resident of Bloomfield Hills. At one time he belonged to that fabled Western hero, The Cisco Kid. But then again, that's another story.

Rich and Fred, live in Birmingham. Rich owns Gibson Construction Co.; Fred is head coach at Derby Junior High School. Art is a horse trainer in the horse racing country at Henderson, Ky.

JACK LIVES in simple quarters behind the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mitchell.

Jack's not alone. He's got an abundance of friends—his neighbors, the people who honor him Saturday—and probably more important to Jack, the few horses he cares for.

And one of his star boarders is a horse called "Diablo," which is now owned by a resident of Bloomfield Hills. At one time he belonged to that fabled Western hero, The Cisco Kid. But then again, that's another story.

"I RECALL one time I was taking care of some hounds which had distemper. There were no shots back then, so we had our own home medicines. I used to give the hounds a shot of whiskey and the whites of eggs.

"One day Mr. Higginson came by and asked me if there was anything needed. I said we were running short on whiskey and eggs.

"Mr. Higginson gave me a sly grin and asked what brand of Scotch I preferred. He sure was an



ECENTRIC PHOTO

A Smile Is Worth...

Seventy-two-year-old Jack Gibson holds a silver trophy presented to him Saturday at a party in Bloomfield Hills. The old-time horseman has been a part of the area scene

B'ham Little Football Play Nears for 9-12-Year-Olds

Don't put away your Little League banners, there's another scholastic sport just a few days away.

Tryouts for the Birmingham Little Football League will begin September 5 at four locations.

To be eligible for play, a boy must be in the 9-12 age group and reside in the Birmingham or Bloomfield Hills School Districts. All players must be Birmingham or Bloomfield Hills school students also are eligible.

AS TIMES changed, many of the large family dynasties fell. E. P. Hammond died and the estate was split up, according to Jack. He spent on his own in 1940, boarding and training "rich people's" horses. At one time, Jack was manager at the Grosseto Point Hunt Club.

"I guess I've rubbed elbows with

freshman squads, "Gophers" and "Bulldozers." Area includes one of Maple located Woodward and Lab-re. Practice will be at Vaughan School, Robert A. Green, 1039 Cornington, is manager.

"BROWNS" WILL be the varsity squad in the Western Division. (See FOOTBALL, 6-E)

The Birmingham Eccentric SPORTS

PAGE 8

AUGUST 24, 1961

Famous Woman Netter To Play at Pine Lake

Pauline Betz Addie, world famous tennis player, will play exhibition tennis Sunday at Pine Lake Country Club.

She will play against Pine Lake Pro Don Brown, women's champion at Smith, 1830 Oak Birmingham; and Pine Lake men's champion Jim Cavanaugh, 30830 Hel-

da, Md., with a special project of supervising the activities of her own five little tennis player-sportswriters. Her husband, Bob Addie, is Washington (D.C.) Post sportswriter.

The much-heralded woman tennis player recently returned from a Jack Kramer tour of Japan and the far East.

Sally Leads Women in Golf Meet

Local women golfers, with Sally Sharp, Warner leading the way, have taken over most of the spots in the Women's District Golf Association match play championship taking place at Orchard Lake Country Club.

Defending champion Mrs. John Hume, of Birmingham, was exempt from having to qualify.

Other local women who are competing for top spot are Mrs. J. G. Ferrel, Ketchumwood; Mrs. R. Leary, Orchard Lake; Mrs. L. W. Sneed, Oakland Hills; Mrs. S. E. Thompson, Birmingham; Mrs. M. Werner, Forest Lake; Mrs. F. L. Mosher, Orchard Lake; Mrs. F. Thompson Jr., Oakland Hills; Mrs. C. T. Mahas, Pine Lake; and Mrs. F. M. Adams, Orchard Lake.

During Monday's qualifying round, Mrs. Warner led all qualifiers with a 78. She was the only woman to break 80.

Defending champion Mrs. John Hume, of Birmingham, was exempt from having to qualify.

Other local women who are competing for top spot are Mrs. J. G. Ferrel, Ketchumwood; Mrs. R. Leary, Orchard Lake; Mrs. L. W. Sneed, Oakland Hills; Mrs. S. E. Thompson, Birmingham; Mrs. M. Werner, Forest Lake; Mrs. F. L. Mosher, Orchard Lake; Mrs. F. Thompson Jr., Oakland Hills; Mrs. C. T. Mahas, Pine Lake; and Mrs. F. M. Adams, Orchard Lake.

Ann Holmes, woman's champion of the Eccentric-Recreation Community Tennis Tournament, has won the State Recreation Tennis Tournament women's title.

Miss Holmes defeated Sue Mills of East Lansing, in the final, 6-1, 6-2. In the semi-finals, the state champ knocked off Hernandez Salvador of River Rouge, 6-4 and 6-2. The state championship, sponsored by the Recreation Association of Michigan, was held Sunday at Jackson.

This is the first year that Eccentric-Recreation titelholders have gone to the state meet. Besides Miss Holmes, others who competed were Don Kelber and Bud Wittus in men's singles and doubles, and Greg Stumpf in junior boys' singles.

Master's Touch

Jack Gibson feels right at home grooming "Cyclonic," a descendant from the line which gave the racing world such greats as "Bull Lea," "Citation," "Coltoun," and many others. The registered thoroughbred is owned by M. E. Griffin, a Bloomfield Hills resident. "Cyclonic" is just one of the horses which receives care at Gibson's stable.

Eccentric Champ Wins State Title

Ann Holmes, woman's champion of the Eccentric-Recreation Community Tennis Tournament, has won the State Recreation Tennis Tournament women's title.

Miss Holmes defeated Sue Mills of East Lansing, in the final, 6-1, 6-2. In the semi-finals, the state champ knocked off Hernandez Salvador of River Rouge, 6-4 and 6-2. The state championship, sponsored by the Recreation Association of Michigan, was held Sunday at Jackson.

This is the first year that Eccentric-Recreation titelholders have gone to the state meet. Besides Miss Holmes, others who competed were Don Kelber and Bud Wittus in men's singles and doubles, and Greg Stumpf in junior boys' singles.

CROSSFIRE

The Bear Presents An Idea

By LOU CHESI

Bear Bryant is one of those college football coaches who realizes the importance of a dollar in college sports. Or \$300,000 for that matter.

The University of Alabama coach says that Alabama's other Southern schools, could pocket about \$300,000 each if they could play a series of three football games in the spring. Bryant has sounded out the possibility of a split football season—spring and fall.

Bear has been around long enough to realize that the master thinkers of the National Collegiate Athletic Association will follow upon such heresy. But he also knows that \$300,000 is a lot of money, and somebody has to start such ideas. Maybe they'll take hold in time.

BRYANT IS a shrewd strategist, too. The \$300,000, he says, could be used to help boost faculty salaries, finance much needed buildings and help pay for other educational requirements in that day when a buck is hard to come by in state legislative appropriations.

The thought of more money may allow the inattentive reactions of educators who shy away from the overemphasis of football each fall. Breathe there an English professor who so dead who never to himself has said that he should have another thousand or two in salary?

Bryant does not mention the possibility of using at least part of the \$300,000 for recruiting athletes, or perhaps for higher salaries for coaches. Or maybe a bigger stadium. The Bear has fought too many campus battles at too many schools to commit such an error.

NOR WOULD spring football subvert regular college spring sports, Bryant hastens to add. Instead, he adds cooly, there might be more money to help finance such spring sports as track, baseball, golf and tennis, all of which fail to pay for themselves.

Spring sports coaches generally detest the popularity and attention of football, but they scramble for the money football brings in at the gate. In recent years, college football receipts have been dropping, and spring sports may suffer as a result. So Bryant's timing is excellent.

The search for a dollar bolsters Bryant's proposal in time when he proposes may materialize, after the sensibilities of educators have been assuaged by the soothing color of green, as in greenbacks.

ANOTHER man who understands the worth of a dollar, George H. Hala is, apparently, has more troubles than Bryant these days.

Hala Bear is having trouble with all the little Bears again this season. The opening contests of the National Football League season suggest that the once-famous Chicago Bears didn't liberate way well during the winter.

The Bears stumbled badly at the (See CHESI, 6-E)

TEE TALK

Max Evans, of Southfield, proved this week that "Frank Merriwell" finishes are for storybooks only.

After three rounds of the Michigan Open Monday at Farmington Country Club, Max was three strokes behind eventual champion John Barnum.

Playing one of his strongest games, even though he had been seriously ill in the hospital earlier this year, the Southfield flash stormed back with the second best round of the tournament, a 67, to leave in the lead to defend John.

BARNUM HAD to birdie the 18th to tie. He did, and competition went into sudden-death play-off.

Both men parred the first hole. On the second hole, Evans' 17-foot putt gave him a birdie, while Barnum chipped within a couple feet of the pin. A short putt gave him a birdie.

Both men hit their tee-shots right on the green on the short 185-yard third hole. Barnum sank a 10-footer for a birdie. Max didn't.

TIED FOR third place were Wally Burkemo, of Franklin Hills, and Phil Wochman, Barnum's assistant at Blythfield.

Debbie Wins 4 Times at Battle Creek

Debbie Wilson led a crew of Bloomfield Open Hunt riders to a number of victories. Her second, end's horse show at the Battle Creek Hunt Club.

Miss Wilson brought back four wins and two second-place finishes, topping all local entrants.

She was first in Open Horsemanship, 13 and under and Green Working Hunter Hack. She also won the Junior Equitation Championship and the Michigan Perpetual Challenge Trophy.

Ricky Creek finished first in Open Horsemanship, 14-17 and second in the Michigan Perpetual Challenge.

Stephanie Albertson won the Horsemanship over Fences, 14-17 and the Chilli Belle Trophy.

West Out West

Birmingham's Chuck West is at Denver, Colo., competing in the 16th International Jaycee Junior Golf Championship. He qualified for the honor by winning the State Jaycee title. This photo was taken by Chuck's father, Ray West, after a recent tour of the links.

DRIVE WITH SAFE TIRES SAVE WITH REEVE'S NAME BRAND DRIVE WITH SAFE TIRES

TIRE SALE

WHITE WALLS BLACK WALLS

GET SET FOR THE LONG LABOR DAY WEEKEND NATIONALLY ADVERTISED ATLAS TIRES Grip Safe Tubeless

ANY SIZE — ONE PRICE

GRIP SAFE FREE MOUNTING

BLACK WALLS

SIZES	PRICE
6:70-15	\$15.95
7:10-15	\$15.95
7:60-15	\$15.95
7:50-14	\$15.95
8:00-14	\$15.95

Without Recappable Tire Add \$3.00

- Non-skid tread for extra safe traction
- Longer Mileage proved by 87 torture tests
- Easier, softer riding, less squeal on turns

NO CASH DOWN (Your old tires are your own payment) 1 YEAR TO PAY (Bank Rates) STANDARD OIL CREDIT CARD 6 Months. No Carrying Charge.

GRIP SAFE WHITE WALLS

SIZES	PRICE
6:70-15	\$19.98
7:10-15	\$19.98
7:60-15	\$19.98
7:50-14	\$19.98
8:00-14	\$19.98

Without Recappable Tire Add \$3.00

- Non-skid for extra traction
- Longer Mileage proved by 87 torture tests
- Easier, softer riding, less squeal on turns

Maple at Telegraph Open 24 Hours Daily MI 4-2910 MA 6-2877