

M'GRATH WORE GREEN CAP WITHOUT STRIPES

Jockey Hitching Post On N. Limestone Street Is Now Correctly Painted.

During the Kentucky Association's spring meeting in 1876 David Clohesy, who owned the saloon on North Limestone street, now known as the Berlin Cafe, of which Horace C. Lancaster and his brother, Henry, are the proprietors, set at the curb line in front of the building a hitching post molded of iron in the form of a jockey.

He called it a statue of Bobby Swim, who was the celebrated jockey of that day, and whose name has, through his achievements in the saddle, been indelibly written in the annals of the turf.

Swim had ridden many of his greatest races while in the employ of the late H. Price McGrath, founder of the McGrathiana Stud, and Clohesy had his "statue" painted in the McGrath colors that were so familiar to Kentuckians in that day.

There was a big crowd at Clohesy's place on the day that the "statue" was set to a drink to the health of Swim, McGrath and turfmen and the turf in general.

So long as Clohesy was alive and in business the colors were never other than those of McGrath, but after the place had changed hands the colors were changed about as frequently as the "statue" appeared to need painting.

One day last week "Coley" Lancaster concluded that it was about time to "paint Bobby Swim again," and he ordered that the McGrath colors be put back. "Make it a green jacket, orange sash and green cap," he instructed the painter and the painter set to work to carry out the color scheme.

An old timer happened that way just about the time the painter was finishing up the job. "Whose colors are these?" he asked.

"Why, Price McGrath's," replied Lancaster.

"They are not," said the old-timer with much positiveness.

"Oh, yes, they are," said another.

"No, you want orange stripes in that cap to make them McGrath's," said the positive old-timer. Another old-timer coming up at the moment assented and went into a long story of how well he remembered those colors.

Lancaster, growing tired of the talk, walked away and it was evening when he returned. The painter was gone and there in the cap were orange stripes.

Now for some days there have been scores of arguments in Limestone street as to whether or not there was any orange in McGrath's colors and all sorts of wagers have been made on the proposition.

To settle the arguments the racing guides were agreed upon and there it is printed in the list of colors:

"H. P. McGrath, Lexington, Ky., Green jacket, orange sash, green cap."

The positive old-timer who started all the trouble said that Byron McClelland had adopted McGrath's colors after the latter's death. McClelland did, in part, he took the green jacket and the orange sash, but he used an orange cap instead of the green cap.