

Jack Huyett – Local Banker – Retired

Less Revenue Threatens Year-Round Racing

Jack was in the banking business for 40 years. After returning from the Army, he began his career in 1959 as a teller at the Blakeley Bank of Ranson, WV and worked his way up to being President of Blakeley Bank and its successor, F & M Bank, before retiring.

For years, Jack's bank handled all the accounts for the Race Track; he remembers putting the first ATM machines in at the track. He estimated that back then about 50% of the horsemen were customers at his bank. He knew them all by their names.

Upon retiring, Jack became very familiar with the horse racing business through his brother who was a horseman and raced for 50 years. "I have always been a supporter of our racing industry. I campaigned and signed a letter in favor of slots provided an amount of slots revenue went to the horsemen."

In Jack's opinion, "Less racing and smaller purses would have a very negative impact on the community. It would severely increase unemployment and welfare. There would be less business for independent shops as well as the big stores. It would affect the feed stores, banks, schools, and most importantly, the farmers who provide the hay and straw to the horsemen. It could prove devastating to the proud history and historic agricultural heritage of Jefferson County."

