

# The Last Of The Racetrack Touts: A Vanishing Breed of Legends

Picture it: a bustling racetrack filled with eager gamblers, the sound of thundering hooves, and the electrifying energy that permeates the air. In days gone by, one would often encounter a special breed of individuals known as racetrack touts, whose presence added an extra layer of excitement to the already thrilling world of horse racing. Unfortunately, these touts, once an integral part of the racing scene, have become a rare sight today. Join us as we dive into the history, life, and the fascinating legacy of the last of the racetrack touts.

## Chapter 1: Gambling with Legends

The racetrack tout, a figure entrenched in horse racing folklore, was a master of the art of tipping horses. These individuals possessed an almost supernatural ability to spot the potential winners among the thoroughbred contenders. Armed with their deep knowledge of the sport, years of experience, and sometimes even insider information, touts became invaluable assets to the average punter seeking to make a bet.

Gone are the days when bettors would flock to these touts, eagerly listening to their advice and placing their trust in their chosen champion. The racetrack touts of yore were charismatic, persuasive, and had an innate quality that captivated everyone around them. Their legendary tales of big wins and near-misses continue to be whispered among passionate horse racing enthusiasts even today.

### The Last of the Racetrack Touts

by Susan Glick (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 948 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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Print length	: 207 pages
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While many bettors relied on their own instincts, the adrenaline rush of placing a wager influenced by a seasoned tout was unparalleled. There was something almost mystical about the bond forged between the tout and the bettor, a connection based on trust and the hope of striking gold. It is this unique relationship that endeared the touts to the hearts of the racing community.

## **Chapter 2: A Day in the Life of a Tout**

The life of a racetrack tout was anything but ordinary. Rising before the sun, they would eagerly absorb the information from trainers, stable hands, and jockeys during their early morning rounds. Armed with this insider knowledge, they would then embark on a mission to tempt, convince, and sometimes even intimidate the racing enthusiasts at the racecourse.

Often adorned in flamboyant suits, fedora hats, and a confident swagger, touts would amble through the crowds, catching the eye of potential customers with their larger-than-life presence. Their ability to engage, entertain, and convince made them indispensable in the world of horse racing. They were masters of their craft and took great pride in their ability to provide the winning ticket.

With a wave of their hand, the tout would summon bettors to listen to their predictions. The tout's unique selling point lay in their extensive knowledge of every horse, every jockey, and every previous race result. Utilizing these tidbits of information, they would painstakingly construct the perfect case for why their chosen favorite would cross the finish line first. Their charisma and unparalleled ability to persuade made them hard to resist.

### **Chapter 3: The Decline and Disappearance**

Alas, in the modern world of technology and online betting, the racetrack tout has been pushed to the fringes. With the advent of readily available information at the click of a button, the need for a tout's expertise has diminished. The convenience of online betting platforms and the abundance of data provided to punters have rendered the charismatic tout obsolete in today's fast-paced racing world.

Today, punters rely on algorithms, statistics, and data analytics to guide their betting decisions. The thrill of engaging with a tout has been replaced by impersonal computer-generated predictions. While this evolution may be a sign of progress, it also means bidding farewell to an era that was built on personal connections and the thrill of hearing a tip from a seasoned expert.

The disappearance of the racetrack tout is nothing short of the end of an era. Their stories, their wit, and their legacy are deeply ingrained in the history of horse racing. They were an indelible part of the racing culture, leaving an empty space in the hearts of those who remember the lively atmosphere they created.

### **Chapter 4: Forever Legends**

Although the racetrack tout may have become a rare sight, their legacy lives on. Their larger-than-life personas, their tips that defied the odds, and the magic they

brought to the racetrack will forever be etched in the annals of racing history. The stories of legendary touts are told and retold, keeping their spirit alive.

As the final few racetrack touts gracefully retire, we bid them farewell with gratitude for their contribution to the sport. Their absence may be felt, but their impact will never be forgotten. The racetrack tout may have disappeared from the stands, but they will forever remain a symbol of a bygone era, when horse racing was as much about the human connection as it was about the horses themselves.

So, the next time you walk through the gates of a racetrack, take a moment to appreciate the legacy of the touts. Reflect on their long-lost charm and the enchantment they brought to the world of horse racing. Let their stories inspire you to celebrate the history of the racetrack tout, a breed of legends that will never be forgotten.



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The Last of the Racetrack Touts begins in 1957 when Billy Mulray, an innocent, 20 year old college student, misses his appointment for a summer job at the

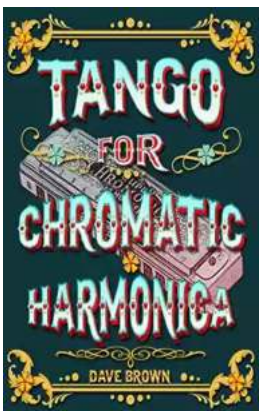
racetrack. Through a twist of fate, he is offered a spot selling tip sheets and is suddenly immersed into the colorful and mysterious world of racetrack touts—a cadre of street smart men with names like Onion Joe, Jigger Higgins, Wingy, Bullet Bob, and the Alligator.

Billy is quickly befriended by veteran hustler Rip McKenna, a fast talking, hard drinking wise guy who mentors Billy and tries to teach him the ropes.

The action follows Billy and the touts as they move from the Jersey shore to many of the great racing venues of the day—Atlantic City, Hialeah, Havana, Oaklawn, Churchill Downs, and Pimlico—before returning to Monmouth Park for the 1958 racing season. During his one year journey, Billy lives his many adventures, including encounters with several famed personalities of the day.

The strength of the book lies in the anecdotes—many humorous—which are prevalent throughout the story line. All are based on true events and occur at each and every venue during the year long odyssey of young Billy Mulray. The settings include Louisville during Kentucky Derby Week, Havana on a Sunday afternoon, and Baltimore on Preakness Day.

The action is fast, the language raw, and the characters unpredictable, all in keeping with a true depiction of real life racetrack touts.



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