

# Racing

## Horse Races

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racehorse\\_driving](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racehorse_driving)

**Harness racing** is a form of horse racing in which the horses race at a specific gait (a trot or a pace). They usually pull a two-wheeled cart called a sulky, although racing under saddle (*trot monté* in French) is also conducted in Europe.

### Kearney Hub

June 5, 1889 – Score cards were being used at the horse races that day, the first of that kind ever used in Kearney. There was a large attendance at the races

June 29, 1892 – Miller was planning to celebrate the Fourth of July with a ball game, horse races and a dance.

Oct 4, 1892 – The County Fair – Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Buffalo County Agricultural Society

Oct 5,6,7 – horse races at 1:30 each day

Wed. – Bicycle race, the dog trotting against a fast horse will be sandwiched in between some of these races.

Thursday – “All races for each day will be announced by daily program which will be distributed the evening before the races take place. Dog trotting against horse flesh.” A trotting horse against a trotting dog. “The dog will be hitched to a small cart for the purpose and will be driven by a little girl.”

July 30, 1894 – Horse races in Shelton

June 17, 1897 – Shelton’s celebration on July 3 to include horse racing

May 15, 1899 – Memorial Day celebration to include a 7-mile bicycle road race and some horse races at the fair grounds.

May 21, 1900 – Plans were under way for a great Fourth of July celebration. To include firemen’s hose races, bicycle races and horse races. Also foot races

July 9, 1909 – Kearney Driving Association held a meet at their driving park on east 27<sup>th</sup> street. Two classes – pace and trotting. Grand stand was reserved for the ladies.

Sept 22, 1913 – “A good number of horses has already come in from neighboring towns and the stalls at the fairgrounds re already filled. A number of fast running horses have entered the list and a large number of harness horses are being given their daily exercise on the track.”

June 22, 1921 – Expecting a Big Attendance

Kearney Merchants Race Meet association set race meet for the mid-summer race meet on July 4, 5, & 6.

June 9, 1922 – No Mid-Summer Race Meet – Directors Decide to Call It Off For the Season  
Decided by the Merchants' Race Meet assoc. who sponsor the meet. Had been an annual event for many years attracting thousands. But attendance had been declining in recent years. No bearing on harness and racing events at county fair.

Attendance has fallen off because of the attraction to auto racing and other sports. VFW was planning a program of auto and motorcycle races on July 4.

Nov. 24, 1924 – Gould Sale Begins Monday – Many Prospective Buyers Here From All Over Country

Midway Stock Farm was selling trotters and pacers. First auction like this in Nebr. in 20 years. Usually Gould shipped his stock to eastern markets, Chicago or New York. Now he was selling over 100 head and the cost of shipping would be prohibitive.

Catalogues with pedigrees and records had been sent out to those who might be interested.

Jan 25, 1927 – Directors Set the Annual Fair Dates at Monday Meeting – Club Work to be Encouraged by Liberal Premiums

Aug 30, 31 & Sept 21 were dates set. Decided to abolish harness racing. [no reason given]

## **Bicycle Racing**

### **Kearney Hub**

June 6, 1889 – Bicycle races tomorrow at the fairgrounds

June 8, 1889 – 6 contestants, one from Grand Island who took first place, two from Kearney, three from Lexington

Sept 16, 1889 – At county fair – Several clubs entering. Fourteen caret gold metals given as prizes

Sept 19, 1889 – Safety race and ordinary bicycle race

Oct 4, 1892 – Three races at fair – a half mile, one mile, and five mile

June 1, 1894 – League of American Wheelmen to be held on July 4<sup>th</sup> in Kearney. Bicycle races at the ball park on the new "biking" track.

July 5, 1894 – Six wheelmen from Broken Bow were in Kearney to see the races yesterday and stayed over.

Sept 8, 1894 – The Big Bicycle Meet – Will Be Held in Kearney September 27-28 – A Valuable String of Prizes – Preparation Making for the Greatest Bicycle Event Ever Held in the West

Kearney Cycling Club & Capt. Walker were making plans for this big racing meet. Prizes: Gold clock & stand (\$35), piano lamp (\$25), silver shaving set (\$20), silver service (\$18), silver handled umbrella (\$18), silk umbrella (\$12), pair of tires (\$12), punch bowl (\$22), 3 pairs of racing tires of 3 different

brands (\$16 each), bicycle sundries (\$10), pair of shoes (\$8.50), friction ball chain (\$7.50), racing saddle (\$6), three wheels, some big diamonds, gold watches, solid silverware

Sept 22, 1894 - --There will be two "Kearney Special" wheels in the coming bicycle races, one ridden by Mills of Kearney and the other by [Ora?] Hayman of Grand Island.

Sept 24, 1894 – Bicycling has become the great national sport.

Two young ladies from Kearney set out to make 100 mile run by riding their bicycles to a point past Grand Island and back. They started out at 6:05 a.m. Saturday morning. Miss Anna Switz became ill and returned by train. Miss Nellie Black thought she might be a few miles short when she got to the Oat meal mill on the east edge of Kearney so she turned around and road to Buda and back, getting home a 5:55 p.m.

Sept 25, 1894 – Schools would be dismissed for the two afternoon meets. One to two thousand people were expected o attend each day. There were so any entrants that trial heats would be run each day. Expected every state record to be broken. Tickets were 35¢, children under twelve 15¢, special rate for school children 10¢.

Sept 26, 1894 – The greatest attraction at the bicycle races will be Judge Hamer in the novice race....Years ago he used to ride one of the old sky-scrappers....The Judge is really too adult for a novice race, but as he has never run in a race of any kind the judges have concluded to let him in even over the protests of the young fellows who think novice races ought to be for younger novices.

Wheelmen coming from Denver, Lincoln, Cheyenne, Grand Island, Stromsburg, 14 rom Kearney and others who are expected to enter at the last moment.

Trial heats will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Oct. 1, 1894 – [after forecasts earlier in the week of good weather for the bike races] --Owing to the fearful winds of Thursday and Friday there is a deficit of nearly one hundred dollars on the bicycle tourney. With two days of good weather it would have been the other way.

[Bicycle races at county fair up through 1936. In 1936 it was for boys 14 and under.]

## **Motorcycle Racing**

### **Kearney Hub**

Sept 22, 1913 – Motorcycle races to be part of the activities all three days of the fair.

June 6, 1914 – Motorcycle races included in the planned Shelton Fourth of July celebration.

Aug 4, 1921 – American Legion celebration planned for Aug 19. The featured attraction of the day was to be automobile and motorcycle races. Machines and drivers had to be from Buffalo county. Two races, \$25 cash prize for winner of each.

## **Auto Racing**

### **Kearney Hub**

Aug 4, 1921 – American Legion celebration planned for Aug 19. The featured attraction of the day was to be automobile and motorcycle races at the fairgrounds. “The races will be confined to Fords only. They must be stock cars, Buffalo county cars and drivers.” ....Four Ford races, \$25 cash prize to winner of each