

GOVERNMENT LAW CENTER OF ALBANY LAW SCHOOL
GOVERNMENT LAW ONLINE

**THE ORIGIN OF THE POST PARADE: A
CHANGE IN THE HISTORICAL RECORD**

SEPTEMBER 2003



80 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
www.als.edu

GOVERNMENT LAW ONLINE publications are available at www.governmentlaw.org

THE ORIGIN OF THE POST PARADE: A CHANGE IN THE HISTORICAL RECORD

Bennett Liebman, Esq.
Coordinator/Staff Attorney
Racing and Gaming Law Program

SEPTEMBER 2003

These materials are copyright by Albany Law School (ALS) on behalf of its Government Law Center or ALS licensors and may not be reproduced in whole or in part in or on any media or used for any purpose without the express, prior written permission of Albany Law School or the licensor. Neither Albany Law School, the Government Law Center or any licensor is engaged in providing legal advice by making these materials available and the materials should, therefore, not be taken as providing legal advice.

All readers or users of these materials are further advised that the statutes, regulations and case law discussed or referred to in these materials are subject to and can change at any time and that these materials may not, in any event, be applicable to a specific situation under consideration. The information provided in these materials is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be, nor should it be considered to be, a substitute for legal advice rendered by a competent licensed attorney or other qualified professional. If you have any questions regarding the application of any information provided in these materials to a particular situation, you should consult a qualified attorney or seek advice from the government entity or agency responsible for administering the law applicable to the particular situation in question.

The Origin of the Post Parade – A Late Change in the Historic Record

We see it reported most everywhere that first post parade in America came in the 14th running of the Belmont Stakes in 1880. See for example, NTRA Thoroughbred Notebook, The Associated Press, June 12, 2003, Belmont Stakes Facts & Stats, The Sports Network, June 2, 2003 and also http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/more/horseracing/events/1998/belmont/belmont_facts_w.html
<http://www.belmont-stakes-betting.com/facts.htm>
<http://www1.nyra.com/belstakes2002/>
http://www.4reference.net/encyclopedias/wikipedia/Belmont_Stakes.html

It ain't necessarily so. Scratch 1880. While the first post parade did occur at the Belmont. It actually took place during the running of the 5th Belmont on June 10, 1871 at Jerome Park. As recounted by the Spirit of the Times:

The eleven colts and fillies **paraded by the stand, and thereby enabled the ladies and gentlemen to observe their fine size, spirit, and beauty and to fix the colors of the jockeys in their minds. We have often recommended such a parade, and the Jockey Cub is to be thanked, on behalf of the people, for having required it.** They then went over to the foot of the Club-house bluff and there assembled for the start, to the admiration of the ladies and gentlemen in the lofty balconies. The Spirit of the Times, The American Gentleman's Newspaper, p. 275 (1871) [Emphasis added]

The record is clear and should be corrected to support the 1871 date , and Tom Gilcoyne of the Racing Museum and Hall of Fame should be commended for helping us set the record straight.