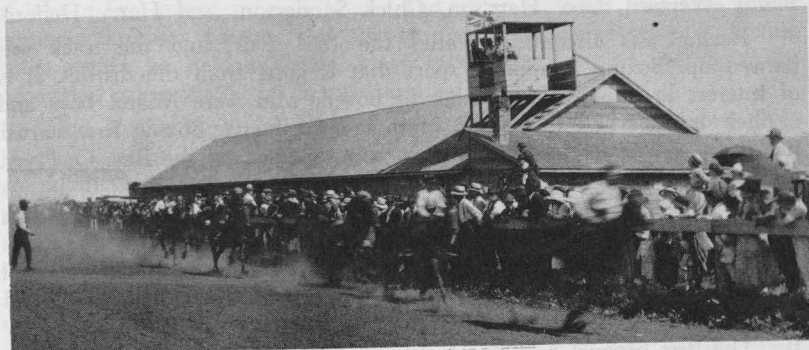


1957 saw our Bantam B team take the laurels in winning a championship and special award to one of the players. Thirteen year old Clint Lawson, as a pitcher-infielder with the team, was presented with an engraved wrist watch as the player from the league of Miami, Roland, Sperling and Myrtle, judged to have best combined a high standard of sportsmanship with outstanding ability.

Many years earlier in 1908, Bob Thomson was awarded a gold watch as winner of a four mile race. Through the last few years cross-country races with a large field of competitors have been taking place. One of the top long distance runners in the early 1950's was Miami High School student, Marvyn Coleman, whose home was at Roseisle.

Another form of racing "The Sport of Kings" is no longer in evidence in this district.



Horse Racing at Miami Fair.

The first several fairs of the Miami Agricultural Society did not sponsor horse racing, due to no race track but horse racing was a popular attraction at other fairs in the area. A small group of men, of which the most interested were: Reme Angers, Jim McKerlie, Alex McKerlie, Dr. Frame, Sam Cowan, in the year of 1911 received permission from the Miami fair board to build a track on the Miami Fair Grounds. They engaged Fred Umphrey to survey and lay out the race track.

Races were held that year and horse racing was made a part of the program of the Miami Fair every year until 1931. Horse races were also held some years on Sports Days in conjunction with baseball tournaments.

The horse races would generally be two harness races, one farmers' harness race, one open running race, one running race for ponies 14 hands and under. Most races were of three heats.

Some of the men who had horses on that first race day were Johnny Blair, Reme Angers, Ben Megill, George Everts, Jim McKerlie. Tommy Dougherty rode Angers running horse to victory in the open running race.