

Haughton Among 4 Elected to Trot Hall of Fame



Walter J. Michael



Delvin Miller



Frank Ervin



United States Trotting Association
Billy Haughton

By LOUIS EFRAT

Membership in Harness Racing's Hall of Fame has been voted to four men. The latest to be honored by the United States Harness Writers' Association are Walter J. Michael of Bucyrus, Ohio; Delvin Miller of Meadow Lands, Pa.; Frank Ervin of Lexington, Ky., and William R. (Billy) Haughton of Oyster Bay Cove, L. I.

All are still active in the standardbred game and it goes without saying that each is a prominent figure in the sport. With their enshrinement about seven weeks hence, the Hall of Fame will have 149 members, including 69 horses, 79 men

(nine living) and one woman.

To earn Hall of Fame distinction, a candidate must be named on at least 75 per cent of the ballots cast. Evidence of how difficult it is to gain a niche in the Hall of Fame may be found in the fact that Michael, Miller, Ervin and Haughton were the first since 1961 to succeed in acquiring the necessary votes.

Most followers of the sport are well aware of what Michael, Miller, Ervin and Haughton have contributed. The 68-year-old Michael has been the president of the U.S.T.A. for the last decade. He is a well-known breeder and president

of Northfield Raceway, outside Cleveland.

Miller, 55, and active in the sport since his high school days, purchased the greatest progenitor in history, Adios, for \$21,000 and subsequently sold him for \$500,000. He then reacquired a one-third interest in the famous stud, who stood at Miller's Meadow Lands Farm for 17 years, siring some of the outstanding pacers in history. Del is president of The Meadows at Washington, Pa. He is an outstanding owner, breeder, trainer and driver. He is also the director of the Hambletonian Society of the U.S.T.A.

Ervin, 64, has trained and

driven standardbreds for nearly a half-century. He was in the sulky the day Adios recorded his one-mile mark of 1:57½ and he reined Bret Hanover the afternoon that sidewheeler set the world record of 1:53 3-5.

Haughton, 44, is in his 28th year of training and driving. Horses he has guided have won more races and earned more money than those steered by any other reinsman. His stable is the largest in the nation annually, sometimes topping 150 in number.

The newest members of the Hall of Fame will be inducted at the annual awards dinner of the U.S.H.W.A. at the Hotel Americana on Sunday, Dec. 8.