

Shoemaker, Habitually a Winner, Earns About \$150,000 a Year

Special to The New York Times.

LOUISVILLE, May 7—William Lee Shoemaker, who won the Kentucky Derby astride Swaps today, is a quiet little man whose earnings are conservatively estimated to be in excess of \$150,000 a year.

A winning jockey gets 10 per cent of the net in a race—so he collected \$10,840 for his 2-minute-1 4/5-second chore this afternoon.

He won a Derby in his fourth bid for one. He was fifth on Count Flame in 1952, he was third on Invigorator in 1953 and he was sixth on Correlation a year ago.

Shoemaker has ridden more winners this year than any other jockey in the land.

That's getting to be an old story with him. Last year he was the list-topper with 380 winners. In 1953 he set a world record of 485 winners.

William Lee was christened Billy Lee. He hates to be called Billy. He long ago changed his first name. His close friends call him Bill. On the sports pages he's known as Willie. And in the jockey room he's sometimes referred to as Willie the Shoe.

He was born in Fabens, Tex., on Aug. 19, 1931. When he was 10, the family moved to El Monte, Calif.

When he finished the eleventh grade, a girl friend introduced him to a jockey who helped him to land a job at the Suzy Q Ranch, Puente, Calif. He cleaned stalls, he hauled hay, he led horses around while they were being cooled out after exercise. He started galloping horses.

"I had a lot of spills," he says.

He left the ranch for the race tracks and got a job, at 16, galloping horses in the stable of the late C. S. Howard.

The most important hook-up for Shoemaker was with Harry Silbert, his agent. An agent books mounts for a jockey. Shoemaker and Silbert have become a nationally famous team at the horse parks.

Press Shoemaker for his method of race-riding and he tells you that "I try to let a horse go along as easy as he can for the first part of a race. I continue to let him stride as far as possible before calling on him for his best."