

Dear Edith -

A nephew (living in the
Chicago area) sent this to us.

The article appeared in the
"Chicago Daily News" on March 12th.

Much love.

Lil

Mr. Fitz Understood Horses

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS 3/12/66

It does seem to happen now and then that a man will get so wrapped up in what he is doing that he will ignore the passage of time and time will ignore *him*, so that he doesn't seem to grow old.

Such a man was James Fitzsimmons—"Mr. Fitz"—of the thoroughbred racing world—who died this week at 91.

Mr. Fitz began his career as a stable boy in 1885, and rose to be a jockey and eventually the most successful trainer of his time and the developer of the immortal Nashua. The fact that he was past 80 when he brought Nashua to glory seemed extraordinary to no one in the racing world. Mr. Fitz simply knew all there was to know about thoroughbred race horses.

The reason Mr. Fitz knew so much was that he regarded horses and, in fact, understood them, as individuals. He was a gentleman by instinct, and natively kind to his fellow men. But his regard for horses was protective as well as sentimental. "There are only two kinds of horses," he once said, "those who have good manners and those who have been neglected."

Mr. Fitz devoted his life to making sure that the horses entrusted to him were not neglected. And there are those in that curious world he lived in who say that his animals ran harder because of that devotion. Be that as it may, the world, and not merely that of racing, is lessened by Mr. Fitz' passing.