Harrison Johnson and Gusty O'Shays, winner of recent Hopeful Stakes at Aqueduct.

—Black Trainers

(Continued from Page 5)

white trainers made them great, or whether it was the other way around.

In any case, it will be surprising, I'm sure, for many to learn that there were no fewer than three dozen black trainers campaigning at Maryland's Bowie Race Course's winter meeting.

Naturally, some had better success than others.

One of these is Ernest "Chico" Green who saddled a 4-year-old gelding, Mr. Baggins, for two stakes wins — the Southern Maryland and the Star de Naskra — in eight days. Earlier, the combination had accounted for the Prince George's Handicap.

Another is Harrison Johnson who prepared Gusty O'Shay for an outstanding 2-year-old campaign which netted the prestigious Hopeful Stake at Aqueduct.

Fred Fox races a modest string of nine, mostly claimers and lower allowance horses for the Gordonsdale Farm of Virginia.

And, except for a heart attack that forced him out of the trying business, Luke X. Hawkins may have had a 1980 Triple Crown possibility in Silver Prospector.

Among others enjoying moderate success are Robert Braxton, William "Wash" Berry (brother-in-law to popular ex-jockey Skeets Holland), Norman Johnson, George Hayes, Celestine Johnson, Daniel Palmer and Chester Moore Sr.

Black trainers who did the work for which whites received the credit, and one who became one of Europe's top conditioners after winning rides as a jockey in two stjaight Kentucky Derbies, will be dealt with later in ttis series.

—Carnival in St. Thomas

"road march" for the Adult Parade.

The day of the Adult Parade was a scorcher! Never-the-less, the parade route was jammed with people wearing sun hats and carrying umbrellas, well before noon. One of the things to be noticed was that everyone participated.

Marching down the street together were teachers, doctors, Rastafarians, Danes and Frenchies (the island's French colony). I was lucky enough to ride on one of the floats in the parade, and I marvelled at the inexhaustible marchers.

How anybody, let alone the senior citizens troupes, could dance all the way to the stadium in the blistering heat was beyond me!

By mid-afternoon, when the judging took place, I was ready to keel over, but all I could do was recharge, because there was still more to come! There was the final tramp from the stadium back down to the waterfront. Quite a few people stopped at Roosevelt Park, and had a jam session there that lasted until 1:00 a.m.

A 3-day trip to St. Croix proved it to be very different from St. Thomas. Not only is it more downbeat — the landscapes are different.

St. Croix is three times the size of St. Thomas, and tends to be much flatter, with a sprinkling of rolling hills. St. Thomas is full of steep hills with narrow, curving roads, that sometimes make driving seem death-defying!

The harbor in Christiansted, St. Croix's capital, is dotted with smallcraft — 30 foot sloops, catamarans, trimarans, and private yachts, while because St. Thomas is a natural port, there are sometimes as many as five cruise ships, actual floating cities, anchored in clear view of downtown.

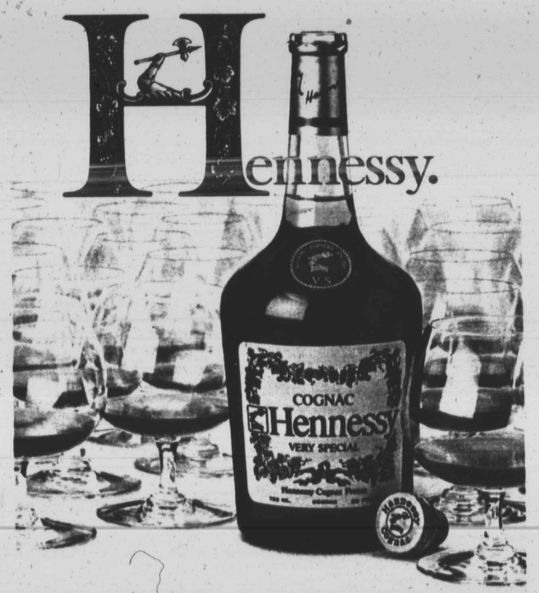
There are also many smaller boats, bearing goods from other neighboring islands, anchored at the waterfront in Charlotte Amalie, capital city of St. Thomas.

The King Christian Hotel is located in a small strip of stores directly across from Christiansted's waterfront. It is adequate, rather than luxurious, and the staff is quite friendly and helpful.

The view from Room 310 is a knockout, as the room is situated on the corner of the waterfront's L-shaped pier. The Chart House Restaurant, which specializes in charcoal grilled steaks and seafood, and hot homemade brown bread, is conveniently located in the lobby.

Buck Island is a snorkeler's dream that can be reached in about an hour by boat. Before signing up with a big tour company, walk down on the pier, where you're sure to meet a

(Continued on Page 18)



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