

Hunters Corner

continued from page 6

have been robbed. I found one black duck nest in the Johnston's River district that had been destroyed by crows. A duck nest (black) found near McKenzie's Corner by Lorne Jenkins held 9 eggs. A few nights later the eggs were taken and the nest dug up. Unhatched domestic eggs were placed on the nest site and those disappeared as fast as they were around the nest netted a red fox and a skunk. Its anybody's guess which was the culprit with the odds in favour of the skunk.

Early in the spring Bruce Wright, Ducks Unlimited Representative and I found a woodcock's nest that had been destroyed by a predator. I figured that the culprit would return to the scene of the crime so added a few hen eggs and set a trap. This plucked the toes of a male red fox and two crows. Either one could have been the guilty party. Someone asked me if I let the fox go. Nothing doing. I clipped him over the head and dug a hole and buried him. The two crows furnished stomachs for the good of the cause.

Hay mowers and brush burning are two other factors that account for large numbers of eggs and in some instances newly hatched birds.

Willard West, Garage mechanic, City, had an unusual experience

last Sunday afternoon. Parked near the shore at Squaw Point with his family he observed a large Herring gull in difficulties in the shallow water on the flat. The gull would struggle and then something seemed to drag its head under water. Investigation disclosed a large Bar clam clamped tight on the lower section of its bill. The gull had evidently attempted to pick up the clam when it was partly open and gotten a section of its bill caught in the clam's vice like grip.

Mr. West carried the gull to the car and succeeded, after considerable trouble, in prying the clam apart with the aid of a screw driver. The gull stood beside him for a few minutes and after giving him a few pecks on the arm walked a few feet and then flew off none the worse for its experience. A large Bar clam (sometimes called sea clams) often weigh a pound or more and it would have only been a matter of time till the gull would have tired and drowned.

Last week I had the good fortune to attend the Annual Wildlife Conference at Ottawa. For the time being much of the business transacted is not open for publication. It was an interesting experience. I met game officials from all the provinces and listened to them voice their problems. The Conference lasted two days and during that period there wasn't much time for sight seeing. I stopped off in Montreal for two hours. When I got home the boys displayed more interest in the "figure eights" on St. Catherine's Street than what had transpired in regard to Dominion Wildlife matters. There must be two types of wildlife men.

Sitting in at a Conference of this nature and scope gives one a wider viewpoint on wildlife matters as pertaining to the Dominion and the U. S. to the South of us. At a later date I hope to be able to write of the doings at this get-together of men vitally interested in our wildlife assets. I learned this much, there is wide field for the betterment of our game resources.

Back Stretch

continued from page 6

track trotting record held by Abbe Worthy 2:05. August 21, 1936: 2:15 Trot—Harvest Melody (MacKinnon) 2-1-1; Silk Girl (Boutillier) 1-4-3; Hackfast (J. Conroy) 3-2-4; Lusty Frisco (Cameron) 6-5-2; Helen D. (Schuman) 7-3-5; Miss McTyre (Armstrong) 4-6-8; Calumet Bee (Semple) 5-7-dr. Time: 2:09 1/4, 2:10 1/4, 2:11 1/4. (The first heat won by Silk Girl was a new track trotting record.)

In a letter received from Gage B. Ellis, proprietor of the Village Farm, Langhorne, Pa., where such top stallions as Abbedale 2:01 1/4, His Majesty A, 1:59 1/4, Cardinal Prince 1:58 1/4, Lion Key 3, 2:00, His Honor 1:59 1/4, and several others are in service, is the following: "Thank you very much for the recent Guardian which gives me news that I did not know about, namely, that Linn Mite had a foal by Royal Napoleon, which of course pleased us. The notes in Down the Back Stretch are dandy and it is a shame we don't have more of this in our newspapers. Things are going along very nicely at the Farm. We have been extremely busy with mares foaling, and breeding stallions to our mares and those of our patrons. Our yearlings are a fine lot and growing beautifully. In the past we have sold them at auction but have now decided to sell them privately here at the Farm, where a buyer can see just what he is buying and knows the price of each even before he looks at them." Mr. Ellis enclosed a list of the colts and also one of the foals, and later it is our intention to publish at least portions of the lists so that Maritime buyers can get a line on them.

Last Saturday night a number of us noticed a fire starting a few miles south of the track but we thought it was just a wood fire and no one had any idea that it was the property of a horseman

friend, George MacDonald of Mermaid. George has had more than his share of trouble in the past few years and this great loss of three barns and other buildings with their contents was a heavy blow financially; but it was nothing to the disappointment because of the destruction of two pacers that he had wonderful hopes of, Adele W. and Mermaid Queen, the stable name of which was Bo-Peep. George has had great paces in the past, such as Colonel Wain, winner of nine races on seven different tracks, and June Morning 2:09 1/5, but he felt sure that Mermaid Queen, a four-year-old, would probably be the fastest of them all. These two he valued at \$15,000, but we know that \$15,000 would not have bought Mermaid Queen. George thought so highly of her. Everyone for miles around, and all horsemen friends, feel deeply for Mr. MacDonald because of this sad happening.

Many must have remarked not having noticed our good friend Wackie MacEachern around; well, the reason is that Wackie is confined to hospital, in fact has been flat on his back for a couple of weeks and will likely be there for another week or two. When we think of Wackie we remember him as one of the fastest sprinters in the Maritimes, practically a ten second man, and then we remember his exploits as a hockey player. He was certainly an iron man and every inch an athlete. His illness at the present time is due to injuries received in an accident while at work. We trust he will soon be out and around again and able to watch the horse racing, which he truly loves.

F. G. "Font" Kennedy has a son Keith in far away California, who is just as fond of horses as his Dad, and spent several afternoons watching the races at Santa Anita and wasn't he proud of Joe O'Brien, you can bet he was. He sent his Dad copies of the Los Angeles Times which had columns about the races and two about Joe. This is picked from one of them.... "Some strange remarks reach the ears of the pari-mutuel ticket-sellers at race tracks. At Santa Anita 'tother day, for example, a trim trick who already had a fistful of tickets hurried to the window and said: 'I'd like three more on the gallon and the half-pint.' Mr. Clerk eyed the lady suspiciously, thinking she probably had too much as it was from some gallon or half-pint receptacle. Noting his puzzlement, she continued: 'I mean Brewer's Gallon and his little driver, Mr. Joe O'Brien.' And the harness fagette did all right too, for Brewer's Gallon and O'Brien finished that trip in the winner's circle, just as they had done on each previous outing at Arcadia. Five times that combine has started during the meeting; five times its triumphed. Reinsman and horse both came to California from Canada's Maritime Provinces—O'Brien from Alberton, Prince Edward Island, and Brewer's Gallon from Halifax, Nova Scotia.

"The winningest horse of the present meeting has an interesting story. The 5-year-old son of a rising sire named Bill Gallon and a well-bred mare known as Betsy Brewer, though a foreigner now, was foaled in the U.S. His breeder and first owner was R.H. Johnston of Charlotte, N. C., who also owned the great Rodney. Johnston sold Brewer's Gallon in the fall of 1947, when the colt was an unstarted 2-year-old. Trainer Bi Shively, who had handled Rodney and other sulky greeds for Johnston, didn't like the looks of Brewer's Gallon because of his clumsi-

ness, so the animal was peddled to B. C. Cruickshank, a Halifax harnessman whose actual business was undertaking.

"Cruickshank took Brewer's Gallon to Nova Scotia and proceeded slowly with his development. The horse started just three times in '48, winning once at a mile in the unpretentious time of 2:16. Last year it was a different story. Brewer's Gallon burned up the Canadian circuit, winning 12 of 13 starts and finishing second and third in the other two. Cruickshank promptly shipped the racer to O'Brien to be prepped for the Hollywood Park meeting. At this stage of his career Brewer's Gallon had a record of 2:10 1/5 for the mile. But in his very first California outing of '49 he lost by only a photo nose to a trotter called Lloyd Hanover in 2:07 2/5. He later lowered his record to 2:06 1/5 and still later to 2:02 2/5. On each occasion, of course, O'Brien has been the gent in the buggy. And the pair invariably has been joined in the winner's circle of Brewer's Gallon's constant companion and strongest booster—Groom Bill Schrade. Incidentally, Schrade and the other members of O'Brien's competent stable crew all wear gaudy rain hats of yellow and red plaid. Race goers have come to associate Brewer's Gallon with that nip of Scotch. It's a heady blend, no mistake."

A million and a half dollars race plant has just been completed at Scarborough Downs, Maine, and will be ready to open on July 1st. It was cut out of a pine forest on a 500 acre plot of land on U.S. route No. 1, which runs down the Maine coast line to Florida. The general manager is Allen Wilson of Boston, who has the largest trucking business in the world and has been the promoter of some of the largest purses ever raced for on a half-mile track. Mr. Wilson is actively connected with Bay State Raceway and other promotions but will spend a month or more at Scarborough putting it on the map. He was born in Cardigan, P.E.I.

What is considered as a future star and possibly a two-minute pacer, is Wayzoff, a 3-year-old chestnut colt by Royal Napoleon, dam, Jane Azoff 1:59 1/4. A week ago he won at Roosevelt Raceway from a good field in 2:08 1/5. Locally we have two of Jane Azoff's colts, Lucky Number and Yankee Dale, in the stable of Willard Kelly, both of which should pace in 2:10.

White Mountain Boy, a son of Volomite 2:03 1/4, dam, Merry Bars 2:04 1/4, by Gratian Bars, set a world's record for 4-year-olds over a half-mile track at Roosevelt Raceway recently. In doing so he headed Gratian McKlyo, Indian Land and four other top pacers. Time, 2:00 3/5. Horsemen will remember when Merry Bars and a half sister, both by Gratian Bars, came here from the west and raced over the Charlottetown track and also at Halifax. Later she was sold to E. P. Cray of Bellow's Falls, Vermont, and after she was through racing she was bred to Volomite with the above result.

Ontario is justly famed for the production of fast pacers. For years Gratian Royal produced a string of sidewheelers that took records of two minutes and better and dominated many of the fast classes in the U.S.A. Then along came Gratian Bars 1:59 1/4 that won three \$25,000 stakes in a row and but for an injury many believe he would have broken all world's records for distances up to a mile.

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Now they have something to crow about in Gratian Volo, a 9-year-old by Bennett Volo 2:04 1/4, formerly owned by the late Charles Barrett, Park Hill, Ont. Gratian Volo is owned by L. O. Charlesworth of Sarnia, Ont., who has had several great stallions and brood mares as well as race horses, some of which have drifted down and helped to make racing more popular in the Maritimes. Gratian Volo was one of the top trotters at the night racing plants in Northville Downs and Mavwood last year, and just recently he won

the \$10,000 2:11 trot stake at the former track in 2:07 1/5, 2:06. The first heat was won by Deanna in 2:05 3/5.

We are glad to see that Earle Avery is holding his own this season racing at Roscroft Raceway, where Wendell Wathen has also been a winner several times. Earle has really gone to town with the 5-year-old pacer Major Hal, winning several events including the 2:18 pace at 1 1/16 miles in 2:15. The purse was \$1,875.

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