

DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

This week negotiations were concluded which resulted in the sale of track, buildings and grounds of Moncton Raceway, Ltd., owned by George B. Gay and others. They were taken over by a new and very enterprising group of horsemen headed by William Stiles of Woodstock as President, W. B. Clout, Vice President, and Frank A. Ryder of Moncton, Secretary-Treasurer. Work will commence right away on the track and grounds and it is expected that it will be one of the fastest ovals in the Maritimes. A large modern grand stand will be built with accommodation for part-nutrient booths and refreshment services. The stables will be re-modelled and new ones built, the grounds landscaped and nothing will be left undone to make the plant one of the most attractive in the province.

Moncton has been a great racing center as long ago as the writer can remember. In fact in our files we can find summaries of races held there in the early 1890's and some of our own happiest recollections are of racing there in 1912 and after the war in the 1920's. We understand that Earle Avery was called in for consultation about the layout of the track, the lighting and other problems which are familiar with because of his racing experience at Roosevelt and Yonkers. It was Earle who gave Royal Bank, owned by Mr. Ryder, his record last year at Roosevelt of 2:06 1/5.

The remodeling is expected to take between two and three months and the first racing dates will probably be August 1st, following Woodstock's Old Home Week. We mentioned the matter of lighting to Mr. Stiles in a telephone conversation and he assured us that the plant they put up will have the most up-to-date system procurable. Everything will be first class, said President Stiles.

President Stiles is doing his share in providing good horses for racing this season and has just recently received from Florida the 4-year-old gelding Poplar 1 year, that took a record as a 2-year-old in 1952 of 2:07 2/5. He is by King's Counsel 1:58 and is eligible to the 2:23 class pace. Before the end of the season it is expected that St. Stephen track will be electrically lighted and Frederickton is already installing them so that will make five night racing plants in the province, the others being Saint John and Woodstock.

Sheldon Campbell of Borden whose splendid campaign with the pacer Campbell's Buddy 2:11 3/5 in 1952 is familiar to horsemen, is paying a short visit to his home in Borden and motored into Charlottetown Wednesday. He is now training a stable in Saint John, which includes True Pingo 2:13 1/5 and Spencer Key 2:12 1/5. Sheldon gave us the information that Howard Johnston, former owner of Joeedala Clipper 2:08 1/5, has brought in a new pacer named True Cy and he is a very glib one, has the real type of speed and was photoed out in 2:06 in one dash and in 2:08 2/5 in another.

The many friends of Walter Orag will be glad to read the following: "Camp Val" Carter, May 2nd, I am just back from visiting Quebec where I had the pleasure of driving the pacer Showman 2:10 4/5 a mile. I was told to work him in 2:30 and let him step the last eighth. He did it so easily in 15 seconds that I believe he can pace an eighth in 14 seconds. I saw a lot of other horses there but Showman was in my estimation the best. Craigie ends with, "Please remember me to all my horsemen friends and others." Showman is seven years old by His Majesty 1:59 1/4. Last year he made 36 starts, was 8 times first, 7 times second and 5 times third.

Saint John Raceway is planning a full season's racing and expenditures are that it will be an even more successful season than last year. The Race Secretary and Manager is D. R. Neal and he is very highly recommended and we have heard many nice things spoken of him. We extend to Mr. Neal our best wishes for success in his interesting work, and we also thank him for sending us the following particulars: "It is expected the opening meet will be held about the first week in June. During the last two years, the Exhibition Association has undertaken to revive harness racing in Saint John after several futile attempts by other parties prior to the purchase of the oval by the Association. Last season saw harness racing progress to such an extent that it was one of the leading attractions in and around Saint John. Plans have been under way throughout the winter months to present even better racing than last year and several new horses have been purchased by local horsemen. Some of the new horses now at Coldbrook Track include....

"Billy Direct Heir—pacer, 2:08 3/5, a bay gelding purchased by Kirkpatrick Bros.; Spencer Key, an 8-year-old pacer, 2:12 1/5, by Long Key, purchased by Al Roberts; Peter Lee, Brewer, a 9-year-old pacer by Corporal Lee, purchased in Ontario by Millett Coughlan. He has a mark of 2:10 2/5. Comet's Guy, chestnut gelding purchased from William Keyes in St. Stephen, by Millett Coughlan. Bye For Now (MacArthur Astra) 2:12 4/5, trotter, 9 years old, purchased by the Bye For Now Stables, Saint John; Betty's Princess, 2:16 3/5, pacer, 5-year-old chestnut mare; Donald G. R. 2:08 2/5, 11-year-old pacing gelding by Calumet Budlong. Both the above

horses have been added to the Lloyd McKinney Stable, Gagetown. Golden Amber, pacer, 6-year-old chestnut gelding owned by Harry McIntosh, Saint John. He has a mark of 2:13 4/5. Mighty Anna, 6-year-old brown mare by Malcolm Forbes, brought to Saint John by Doug Colwell from Quebec. Walter Federal, 3-year-old brown gelding by Federal, purchased by Dick Armstrong, Saint John.

"In addition to the new horses many of last year's favorites are already at the Park. They include such horses as Ramona Chips, Piney Boy and Panny Dale Boy, owned by the Eight Spot Club of Saint John; Milton Downey's Thelma Lou; Monty Budlong, owned by Dick Armstrong, and Morris Direct from Lloyd McKinney's Stable. Stall space is at a premium as most of the 98 stalls, housed in five stable buildings, are either occupied or booked by horsemen, who are expected to arrive daily. With stock car racing not appearing at the local track this summer, it is expected that fans in this area will see more harness meets. Definite plans have not been completed as yet as to the actual dates of the races, however, races will be held each Wednesday night, throughout the season. It is expected that with the return of harness racing to Frederickton this summer, and the possibility of the Moncton oval resuming operations on a larger scale, a good circuit will be operating in New Brunswick and therefore new entries from outside the N.B. border are anticipated. Crews are now busy on the grounds and buildings at the track in order to have everything in readiness for the season. The installation of a photo-finish booth and the necessary lighting will get under way very shortly and will be in operation for the first time at the Saint John track."

Brewer's Gallon 2:00 4/5 by Bill Gallon is off to the wars again. Although only nine years old he has had a long and very great career as a trotter. Brought to the Maritimes as a 2-year-old by E. C. Cruikshank of Halifax and developed and trained up to a mile in 2:10, he was then placed in the stable of Joe O'Brien and became one of the prominent trotters in the United States, competing on New York tracks and also as far away as Santa Anita, Calif. He raced against the fastest trotters in the world including Pronto Don and always gave a good account of himself. His total winnings are \$40,193.65 and with allowances he is eligible to the 2:10 trot. We understand he is in good shape, as might be expected as he is in the hands of the well-known Jack MacMillan, who got him ready for most of his races in the Maritimes and who is accompanying him to Quebec City Raceway where he is staked in two of the fast trotting events. He may also race at Blue Bonnets in Montreal. The chestnut pacer Just Rita 2:13 1/5, owned by Mr. Cruikshank, will be in the same truck and will be raced at the same tracks.

New England lost one of its leading harness horse figures with the recent passing of the veteran owner A. J. Wills of Lawrence. In his 79th year, he was associated with the sport for over 50 years. Fastest of the Wills horses was the rugged pacer Peter Look 2:01 3/5, who, in his 3-year-old form held championship honors. Among his other stars were such top performers as Gam 2:05 1/2, Carl C. 2:05 1/4, a pair of hardy pacers; Gleaming Silk 2:07 3/4, and Paestrina 2:09 1/4. She was purchased in the famous Old Glory Sale at New York for a mere \$185 and turned over to Wes Gibbons, Paestrina developed into a top race mare and, when retired to the brood mare ranks attained championship honors, being the dam of Dean

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The year 1954 has been good to many athletes. Leonard "Red" Kelly of the Detroit Red Wings may remember it as the greatest year of his outers ever enjoyed a career. Few players enjoyed a better season than Kelly had this year. The Red Wings rushing defenceman earned \$6,000 bonus money in addition to his regular salary and any bonus arrangements he may have had with his club. He obtained 187 out of a possible 190 votes for the N.H.L. All Star team for his play during the season by scoring five goals in the playoffs to lead the Red Wings in goal scoring.

Rocket Richard may remember it as his last great year. Before the schedule opened Dick Irvin figured the Rocket for 25 goals. Richard responded by scoring 37 and leading the League in this department. Baz O'Meara of the Montreal Star picked Richard as the most valuable player in the N.H.L. He stated that Richard with his goals was the big man responsible for the Canadiens second place finish. Richard may have several more good years ahead of him but it is doubtful if ever again he will score over 35 goals in one season.

Roger Bannister and the sports world will always remember 1954 as the year in which the four minute mile barrier was cracked. Bannister's performance undoubtedly will go down as the most monumental sports performance of the year. There will be quite a few horse races this summer with the time for the first half being about 1:10. Bannister covered the first half in 1:58.2 on Thursday. Bannister covered himself and merrie Old England with a lot of glory.

Closer to home there's a boy who is having a great all-round year. He is Billy Purcell who has been offered a professional baseball contract with a farm club of the Philadelphia Athletics. Billy won't go to Kentucky and play ball because he believes the climate would be too hot for him. It is to be hoped that some deal can be worked out within the Athletics ranks whereby Purcell gets the opportunity to play in some cooler area.

The point here is, Purcell must have looked very good at Savannah Beach to earn the contract. He must have been hitting that ball in the manner he promised to do when he broke into organized ball here a few years ago. We felt then that he might have a future in baseball and we are certainly glad to see that he merited a professional contract.

We read the letter-contract sent by the manager of the Kentucky ball team to Purcell. The writer made no bones about the fact that Purcell belonged to them and that if he didn't play in Kentucky he wouldn't play organized professional baseball anywhere. Billy is now training with Ottawa in the International League. He's in very fast company and claims he is learning plenty.

It's not only in baseball that 1954 has been good to Purcell. He's done pretty well in hockey and in his studies. He held down a regular defense post with Eastview in the Ottawa Junior League and

Billy Purcell Offered Pro Baseball Contract

Billy Purcell of Charlottetown has been offered a professional baseball contract with a Class D Farm Club of the Philadelphia Athletics, it was learned here last night.

Purcell has been assigned to the Hopkinsville Baseball Club in Kentucky but has declined the offer due to the fact that the Kentucky climate is too warm and he would have to play too many ball games. Purcell is now in Ottawa working out with the Ottawa Athletics. When the Hopkinsville manager learned that Purcell did not wish to play in Kentucky he forwarded the City ball player a letter-contract. Purcell sent the contract home to his parents this week.

It notified Purcell that he was the property of the Hopkinsville Club and mentioned his refusal to join the team. "I wish to remind you that by not reporting to our club you will in no way possible be able to play professional baseball with any other club," the letter stated.

"We would like to have you play for us this summer. You would be the first Canadian boy to play for us," stated the manager of the Philadelphia farm club.

Purcell worked out at the Philadelphia training camp at Savannah Beach, Georgia for well over a month. He was first tendered the contract while in the U.S.A.

He returned to Ottawa about two weeks ago, spending the first week in hospital to recover from an eye infection. He has been working out with Ottawa for the past week. Billy is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Purcell, Charlottetown. He played junior hockey with Eastview in the Ottawa League last winter. Eastview won the League championship and later eliminated the Maritime Champion North Sydney Franklins from the Memorial Cup playoffs.

While in Ottawa Billy attended Gloucester Collegiate and succeeded in passing his high school examinations.

His plans for the summer are not known. He is working out with a Triple A ball club in Ottawa which is only a step away from the Major Leagues.

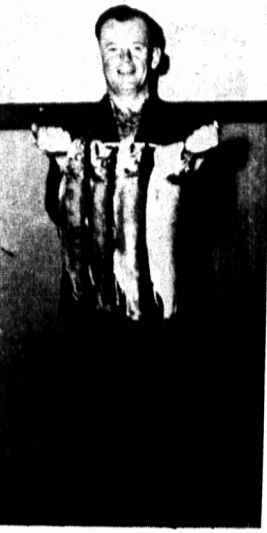
At the same time plugged away at his books to pass his high school exams. This is the kind of a year that few boys ever have. It's the kind of year for which a fellow deserves congratulations.

FORUM ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the shareholders of the Charlottetown Forum, Ltd., will be held at the Rink Building, May 19th, at 7:30 o'clock.

F. W. BOYLES, Secretary-Treasurer.

Who's A Liar?



"Tuddy" MacKinnon and "Mickey Finn" pull a fast one on the first run of sea trout. When they hooked they're in the bag. Three weighed 9 lbs 14 oz and the big fellow went 4 lbs 5 oz. The law reads 10 lbs of trout plus one.

—Barter Film Lab.

IN THE STUD

The handsome and superbly bred and registered stallion Cyclonic 2:08, by Protector 3, 1:59 1/4; dam, Taurida, Abbey by Guy Abbey; second dam, Taurida by Peter the Great; third dam, Eva Bellini by Bellini; fourth dam, Expressive by Electioneer.

Cyclonic was bred, foaled and sold from Walnut Hill Farm, Donerail, Kentucky.

He is a splendid individual, sound as a dollar, with good manners and disposition and weighs in the vicinity of 1200 lbs. He should be an outstanding cross for the blood mares of this Province.

For further particulars see—WELLINGTON NICHOLSON Montague, P.E.I.

HUNTERS' CORNER

Off times, even a most casual observer, sees peculiar tracks imprinted in a brookside sandbar, in the goo of a marsh or crossing those of a small bear in a province where bears are prevalent. A bear track has a longer heel print and bears a close resemblance to the bare foot of a man. Years ago a hired man working for a farmer at Alexandria had his employer in a state of nervous exhaustion. He was somewhat of a wag and had the ability to walk a considerable distance on his hands. One night he walked across the corner of the farmer's potato patch on his hands and took care that his fingers dug deeply into the soft ground. The farmer had spent some time in Nova Scotia in his younger days and was familiar

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Baseball Results

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
National League
Chicago 100 020 000—3 9 1
Milwaukee 000 000 000—0 5 1
Hacker and Tappe; Buhl, Johnson (5) Cron (6) and Crandall.
L-Buhl.
Brooklyn 020 100 000—3 6 0
Philadelphia 001 000 000—1 10 0
Newcombe and Walker; Simmons and Burgess.
St. Louis 000 102 000—3 10 4
Cincinnati 150 000 40x—10 12 0
Staley, Poholsky (2) Presko (7) Wright (6) and Rice, Sarni (7); Valentine and Landrith. L-Staley. HR: Cim-Landrith.
New York at Pittsburgh postponed, rain.

American League
Washington 000 004 200—6 11 0
Boston 303 010 00x—7 10 0
Shea, Stone (1) Dixon (6) Schmitz (6) and Oldis; Clevenger, Kinder (6) and White. W-Clevenger. L-Shea. HRs: W-Busby, Vollmer, Sievers, Bos-White, Philadelphia 000 000 000—0 5 0
New York 000 000 20x—2 3 0
Martin and Astroth; Morgan and Berra. HRs: NY—Mantle, Berra.

International League
Rochester 010 000 010—2 9 0
Montreal 000 100 03x—4 8 0
Hoitsma, Reeder (8) and Burbrink; Lehman and Howell. L-Hoitsma. HR-Roch, Virdon.
Toronto 200 010 500—8 9 4
Ottawa 102 000 320—3 8 3
Powell, Crimian (7), and Griffin; Monahan, Labanz (7), Stemple (8), Romberger (9) and Watlington.
Richmond at Buffalo postponed, rain.
Havana at Syracuse postponed, cold.

American Association
Charleston 000 000 000—0 3 0
Indianapolis 100 000 01x—2 7 1
Straus, Hurd (8) and Robinson; Jones and Folles.
Toledo at St. Paul postponed, cold.
Louisville at Minneapolis postponed, cold.

Recce Enter Team in City Softball League

The Prince Edward Island Regiment (17th Recce) entered a team in the City Softball League last night to swell the number of teams competing for the City championship to eleven. The team will play under the name of Recce and indications are that they will field a strong club when the league swings into action on Monday, May 17.

Last night's weekly meeting attended by representatives of all Continued on page 15

SDU-BYC Softball Game On Sunday

The Basilio Youth Club will meet St. Dunstan's University in an exhibition softball game at the College at 3:30 Sunday afternoon.

The B. Y. C. players will meet at the Holy Name Hall at two o'clock for transportation to St. Dunstan's.

For Sale
WINNIE'S LAST,
Ch. gelding (15)
Earned \$819.00 last summer
Can be ready for racing 24th May
Also horse trailer
R. C. SHEA
Kinkora

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OPEN 'TILL 9.30

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THE FORUM - MAY 17 and 18

MATINEE
4 O'CLOCK

NIGHT
PERFORMANCE
8 O'CLOCK

TWO SHOWS
DAILY



PRICES:
Matinee
Children 50c
Adults \$1.00

NIGHT:
All Seats Reserved

\$1.50
and
\$1.25

Tax
Included