

Back Stretch

For Ray Stewart of Mount Stewart, he has Sea Plant 2:15 2/5 and the races with and lowered won record to 2:15 2/5. Cyril had the outstanding success with the 5-year-old Barbara Ann Queen by Calumet Budlong 2:02 3/4, dam Teenie Aubrey, owned by Hugh Monaghan of Sydney. She was first to the wire six times and took a record of 2:14. He also has his own mare Judy Budlong 2:14 and the partnership horse 2:14 Mopitt 2:09 by Protector 1:59 1/4, Mopitt by Cyril and Ralph McFadden. He is a trotter and will be prepared for the ice racing meets this winter.

And here's the news from S. Thane Belyea of Fredericton. William A. Clarke of Fredericton recently bought Hants Hanover, by Hanover 200, from Morgan Bros. of Bridgewater, Me. These men are the owners of June Morning. This horse is four years old and has not found himself yet but he is good looking and could be another Bay State Pat. Mr. Clarke also bought Lady Mike by John W. by Playdale 2:04 1/2. This colt showed very good on the trot this spring. He bought her from George Woodside and George has owned the trotter Tyndall Semple 2:14 3/5 with J. Henry Deane for the 2-year-old Miss Abner (2:14) by Abner T. Cleary 2:04 1/2, Sir Vihart's Margaret by Sir Vihart. This mare was received by Henry in a trade for Mr. Deane that raced in 2:07 this year at Skowhegan Fair.

George has sold his weanling out of Linda W. by Lakeburn 2:18 by De J. T. Akins. He has weanling named him yet. By the way, George Woodside has bought out a very business here and took over November 29th and all his many friends here trust he will have the best of success with it. I was glad to see in your Saturday notes where Cecil Alexander bought several horses at Delaware and I hope they will turn out good for him. He has certainly bought quite a few in his time that have turned out well.

We were greatly pleased to have a letter from N. A. Renton of Moncton, N. B. who in the short time he has been an owner has done remarkably well. "As you probably know, I bought a pair of 3-year-old pacers from the William Siles estate. She is a lovely mare and took record of 2:13 3/5 in the second heat at Moncton, September 6th. She had stepped the first one in 2:14 but was set back to second place. Frank McAlduff, who drove her, likes her very much and believes she will take a much faster record. I hope to be over to Old Home Track, Charlottetown, next year with her and Leah Fed. that I had in Johnny Conroy's stable at Truro. Johnny liked her very much and timed her a mile in 2:13 1/5. As you will remember, Leah won three dashes for Johnny at Old Home Track and equalled her record of 2:14 2/5. I can say having my horses trained here by Mr. Adnell, who was with Clayton MacLeod the past season and is highly recommended. He takes over around the first of the year. Thanks, Mr. Renton, you certainly have two good pacers."

Latest news around the race track is that Ed Downe will have a good addition to his stable in Campbell's Buddy 2:11 1/2, 10-year-old gelding by Calumet Budlong 2:02 1/4, owned by R. B. Campbell, Augustine Cove, that was campaigned last season by Mr. Campbell's son with splendid success, finishing first in seven trips. Campbell's Buddy has shown a lot of speed in his races here. We remember his being timed a last quarter in very close to 30 seconds.

The first of the annual November sales held at Tattersalls, Ky., saw a total of 138 head, trotters and pacers, a large number of them yearlings and weanlings, sold for \$83,165—an average of \$603. Top price was \$10,000, paid for the 2-year-old Yankee Way by Hoot Mon, that went to A. D. Knapp of Springfield, Ill. He also had the final bid of \$5,000 on Panama Hal, a 2-year-old pacer by Hal Dale. Dr. George Bishop very kindly sent us the catalogue of that sale with the

Ed will also have other horses. A near neighbor of ours at the track, we have always found him most conscientious in his care and training and he is a good driver.

Jim Harrison, Publicity Director U.S.T.A., has released the following: "The Allwood Stable of Far Hills, N. J., was the leading purchaser of harness horse yearling in 1954. Allwood Stables' advisor Thomas W. Murphy, retired trainer-driver, made the final bid on eight trotting and pacing youngsters for a total outlay of \$141,000. Runner-up was Sol Camp of Shafter, Calif., who paid \$90,500 for seven head. A year ago Camp was the top yearling purchaser and the New Jersey stable ranked second. Including among the Allwood yearlings that will be trained and driven by young Ned Bowser of Ravenna, Ohio, was The Intruder, a colt by Scotland, which brought \$35,000, top price for a yearling in 1954.

The Allwood Stable also went to \$25,000 for the Adios filly Way Dream, the highest price for a yearling pacing filly, and \$25,000 for Barlow Hanover, a Hoot Mon colt. It was the most ever paid for the first foal of a mare. Camp's top price was \$25,500 for Solicitor General by King's Counsel, and full brother to Solicitor 3, 1:57 1/2. The Californian paid \$25,000 for Blythe Hanover, a Hoot Mon filly which represented a record for a yearling trotting filly. Rounding out the list of leading purchasers was Castleton Farm of Lexington, that paid \$8,000 for ten head; Paul Wixon, Chicago, Ill. paid \$57,000 for four head and Clearview Stable, Winthrop, Me., paid \$48,600 for seven head.

On the final afternoon's racing at Hollywood Park, California, Nov. 20, turf statisticians looking over their records stated that no late season card had ever come up with such a brilliant display as the 16-610 fans witnessed that afternoon. Out of that afternoon at Hollywood Park came the fastest racing mile in California has ever seen when Freeman Hanover, an 8-year-old stallion driven by Kent Cartmel, hit the wire in 1:58 1/2. To many others the most important event of the afternoon was the battle between a pair of 3-year-old pacers, Ensign Lad driven by Benny Schue, and Meadow Gold, driven by Houston Stone. They started in against aged opposition, fought a terrific stretch duel and the photo finish camera could not separate them. The timers announced it 1:59 1/2 and it went into the record books as the fastest dead-heat ever raced, replacing the old mark of 2:01 1/2 which was set at Lexington, Ky. in 1942 by Eddie D. and Lily Dale. There was more history to that mile because of the wonderful performance of the 14-year-old pacer Athlonie Rider, that was just a sten back at the finish and if the wire had been ten yards further away he would have finished the winner. Another record was set up at Hollywood Park when Del Miller won the \$5,850 Western with the 3-year-old trotter Harlan in 1:59 1/2.

Referring to the mile in 1:58 1/2 paced by Freeman Hanover who neglected to mention that it was the 3-year-old pacer Diamond Hal that forced Freeman Hanover to that record. He is owned by Sol Camp and was driven by Joe O'Brien, and is now regarded as one of the real top candidates for honours in the richest pacing stakes of 1955 and it is probably the reason why the 3-year-old Aristocratic Boy 3, 2:01 1/4 and Dazzle Mite 2:03 were sold at Harrisburg by Sol Camp.

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prices realized marked in it. There may have been some wonderful bargains. Take the following: Mrs. North, a weanling filly by Fedor 2:04 1/2, dam Ophelia Hanover 2:09 1/2, entered in the richest stakes to be raced in 1955, sold for \$250. Fedor was the champion trotting stallion on half-mile tracks in 1948 and was raced in the S. A. Wathen stable.

Here's another one... Party Queen, a brown weanling filly by Ensign Hanover 4, 1:59 1/2, dam Party Girl 3, 2:07 1/2, sold for \$350. Here's a 2-year-old gelding by Algiers 1:58 1/2, dam Proud Virtue, dam of five in 2:10 or better, sold for \$125, and here's High Bomb, a weanling by Bombs Away 2, 2:04 1/2, dam Belle Siskiyou 3, 2:11 1/2, sold for \$300, and here's a brown colt yearling by Victory Song 4, 1:57 1/2, dam Belle Siskiyou 3, 2:11 1/2, that brought \$550, very much less than the service fee of the horse. There were dozens of other good young promising trotters and pacers that could have been purchased at what looked to be bargain prices. Take this one for instance... bay colt, weanling, consigned by Walnut Hall Farm, by Algiers 1:58 1/2, one of the top sires of today, dam, Cleopatra, dam of Alexandra 2:03 and four others with records of 2:10 or better, price \$300. It may be that this colt which was an innovation and came one week before Delaware and had followed the big sale at Harrisburg, did not draw as much attention from buyers as was expected. Then again Tattersalls had a tremendous sale during the Lexington Trots and probably could not repeat to advantage because of that.

In checking our records for this season's racing we came across the performances of the trotter Agnes Hall, 2:15 1/2, a brown mare 14 years old by Billy Keyes of St. Stephen, Billy is well on in his 70's but on September 4th at St. John he was 1-1 with Agnes Hall in 2:16 1/2 and on September 15 at St. John he was 1-1 in 2:17 1/2. Twenty-three years ago Billy Keyes was campaigning one of the best stables in the Maritime and Maine. At Charlottetown Exhibition race meet August 18 he won the 2:17 trot with Holywood Lee in 1-1-2, Frank J. Ortolan 2-2-1, Captain Jackson 4-5-3, five other starters, best time 2:13 1/2. In the 2:14 trot Abbe Worthy (Hood) was 1-3-1, Edna McKylo (Keyes) 5-1-2, Chestnut Dillon 2-2-4, Johnny Miles 3-4-5, Peter Dawes 4-6-3, time 2:10 1/2—a new track trotting record—2:12 1/2, 2:10 1/2.

Johnny Conroy won the 2:12 pace with Captain Mac in straight heats, Billy Cope 4-2-2, best time 2:13 1/2. Marjorie M. (M. Jabalee) won the 2:17 pace in straight heats, Aubrey the Great 2-3-3, best time 2:12. Shenandoah (M. Gerow) won the 2:20 trot with 1-1-1, Worthy Louise

Hunter's Corner

Kings, some of them hunt and a lot don't, and without exception they want Black Pond to remain as it is. I am convinced that if Black Pond Sanctuary was declared null and void the people living in the area would be up in arms and that public sentiment throughout the entire Province would strongly disapprove of such action. Recently the Kings County Branch Game Association went on record as being in favour of both, the present sanctuary and the inclusion of an additional one at

2-4-3, May Cromwell 3-5-2. And now we come to another record-breaker, the Free For All Pace which was won by Eula H. 2:06 1/2 (Keyes) 1-1-2. Volo Rico 2:05 (MacKinnon) 2-2-1, Trampsmug 2:02 1/2 (Sweet) 3-3-5, Rupy P. 2:04 1/2 (Hood) 5-5-3, Lambert Todd 2:02 1/2 (Lewis), 4-4-4, Janette Royal 2:04 1/2 6-6-5, Bonnie M. 2:02 1/2 (Gerow) dis. Time, 2:10 1/2, 2:08, 2:08 1/2. The middle heat was a new track record and stood for many years. Monte Gerow was also in his prime then and won the 2:23 trot with Shenandoah, 2-1-1, Gold-3-2-2; Oliver Evans won the first heat and was distanced in the second, best time 2:12 1/2. Mike Jabalee was just getting really started with that great pacer Marjorie M. She won the 2:15 pace in straight heats, Miss Winnipeg (Keyes) 2-2-5, Grandma 5-6-2, Billy Cope 3-3-3, Lucky Lindy 4-4-4, two other starters, best time 2:11. The 2:27 trot was won by the converted pacer Bingen Aubrey, owned by the writer, with 4-1-1, Miss La Aubrey, driven by Tyndall Semple 1-2-2, six other starters, best time 2:17 1/2.

In those days if a horse won two heats he was classified following that by his record and no great attempt was made to have the tracks lighting fast. Eula H. had been the winner that year of one of the greatest stakes in New England and her total earnings for the season were in the vicinity of \$9,000. The field of pacers in the Free For All was one of the most notable that ever stepped on a Maritime track. Lambert Todd had been raced with great success a few years previously over Canadian tracks and was sold to Tommy Murphy, who campaigned him on the Grand Circuit as Grand Circuit star and Rupy P. and Janette Royal were co-holders of the track record at Fredericton—2:04 1/2. Bonnie M. had been raced through the Grand Circuit and took his record at Lexington, Ky. Janette Royal eventually came to this province and her blood flows through some of the best pacers raced here.

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Milltown Cross. Recently I spent the best part of two days in eastern Kings and was subjected to a lot of good-natured banter over the Queens County Branch poking a finger in the Sanctuary pie. The general criticism went along this line: "Whatever gave you Queens County hunters the idea you should have a say-so in our affairs in respect to wildlife management? If we want two bird sanctuaries in Kings, we'll decide it ourselves. This was all in the nature of good-humoured banter but nevertheless. As one of my friends in east Kings, remarked, with an obvious twinkle in his eye: "I run across a lot of Queens County hunters up here every fall and if you boys don't like the way we are running our game matters you don't really have to come up." There's more truth than poetry in that. Speaking for myself I never thought of it in that light when I poked a finger into the subject at hand, at the branch meeting on the night in question. A polite slap on the wrist doesn't do any harm on occasion.

A few evenings ago I visited the "protected" dam at Milltown Cross. It was a wintry scene. Snow blanketed the ice covered pond for approximately 250 yards from the spillway to the open water at its head. The water and ice surface nearby was black with ducks. Nearing sunset Mr. Moore came out and gave the call that lunch was about to be served. How quickly the birds responded. It was a thrilling experience to watch a black mass of ducks moving down the ice in a line that was at least 100 yards long and one chain wide. Impatient birds at the rear of the procession would make short flights and sort of leap frog their heads.

I estimated over two thousand ducks, mostly blacks, in the flock. There were a good sprinkling of wildgeese and one wise old gander led his family, a wife and two children, to within 125 yards and then stopped. He didn't like the look of the stranger standing beside his friend. This particular gander is a real old timer. Seldom have I seen one any bigger. Harvey told me that a week ago he had it out with his own old gander for leadership. It was a battle royal for several minutes—flapping, wing pulling and honking—but the

visitor lost out. He is content now to remain on the side-lines without throwing his weight around.

As dusk deepened the ducks began lifting in sizable flocks and moved out of the salt flats where they feed during the night. By 10:00 a.m., next morning the last stragglers have arrived back. Only a select few remain on the sanctuary all night. It would be impossible to supply enough grain to feed such a concentration of waterfowl. All they get is a light snack to make them feel at home. Before this

sanctuary came into being and for several years after its inception, black ducks were a minus quantity in this section of southern Kings after the opening day. From then on local hunters had to drive to Belle River, Flat River or the Point Prim marshes if they hoped to fetch home a duck dinner. Its not so this past few years and the duck crop is increasing with each season. At one time the ducks were not allowed to hang around long enough to get acquainted and make themselves at home. Now they look upon this

section as a place to set up house-keeping with a refuge to visit when the going gets too tough.

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