

Back Stretch

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name will go down in history as the Californian who picked up where his illustrious predecessor left off.

We had a letter from Claude O'Brien a few days ago and everything is going nicely at the Sol Camp stable where they are busy training 42 head, Joe, Lee Walker and Claude. Mr Camp has as many more at his ranch including colts, mares and studs. He has retired Mighty Sun 1.58%. Claude thinks he was the greatest race horse he ever saw, as he was never sound. He has also retired the good trotter D'Aragnan 2.04% for a year. They haven't got over the loss of Prince Jay 1.58%. Plans were to race him quite extensively this year. His trouble previously had been a bad quarter crack. This was operated on and he was turned out and appeared quite sound. Claude drove up to the ranch the week before Prince Jay died and shot him so the boys at the farm track could start jogging him. His death was caused by intestinal trouble. Prince Jay would have been eight years old this Spring and was sired by

Scotland 1.59%. During his racing career he won \$130,863 and paced quite a number of miles better than 2.00.

William E. Miller, one of harness racing's grand old-timers, celebrated his 75th birthday March 29th. He rose as usual before six a.m. and jogged most of his 30 trotters and pacers around Rosecroft Raceway, Oxon Hill, Md., before settling down to the business of celebrating his 50th anniversary. Mrs. Miller was waiting for him when he finished his training around noon and they spent the rest of the day together and in the evening a family Golden Anniversary party was tendered them by their son John W. Miller, their daughters and six grandchildren.

Miller won his first race at the old Brightwood race track, Washington, D.C., back in 1907 and he later won 86 races with Mary Ellen 2.06. She was the favorite at state and county fairs from New York to the Carolinas in the old days. Another horse that he had marvelous success with was Symbol Gentle 2.01%, who was in the money 71 times out of his 75 races and is now a successful sire at Rosecroft breeding farm. At Harris-

burg last fall he was the high bidder on the three-year-old pacer Hilliota 2.00, paying \$35,000 for him and he plans to drive him personally in the Free For All paces along the Maryland and Delaware circuit. In 1949 when he was 70 years old he was top driver over U.S.T.A. tracks with the marvelous average of .629, Universal Driver Rating System. In 1952 at 73 he was beaten out by a hair in the race for leading driver honors at Ocean Downs Raceway. Mr. Miller is a well known breeder at his Rosecroft Farm and some of the Roscrafts have come down to the Maritimes and are well liked.

We had a letter from a valued correspondent asking for the summary of the Two Year Old Futurity Trot and Pace of 1953, in which Anne Worthy was a starter. We have looked up that futurity and find that Anne Worthy was not a starter. Here is a short write-up and the summary:—

Charlottetown, Labor Day, Sept. 7, 1936. Six snappy youngsters came to the wire for the first heat. Buddy Volo, the pole horse, took the lead and knew how to keep it. His stablemates, Major Boves and Nita Volo, were right with him in second and third positions with Volo Scott fourth, Leland fifth and Guy Kalmuck who made a break before the first turn was reached and lost a lot of ground, back quite a distance. They kept these positions right to the three-quarters when Guy Kalmuck, who had been gradually creeping up, pulled out and went right around the trailers finishing close second. Nita Volo third, Major Boves fourth. Second heat: They got away on the eighth score in practically the same positions as the first heat. Guy Kalmuck made a bad break which spoiled his chances. Volo Scott made a try on the back stretch the second time around and came a good third but could not catch Nita Volo; Major Boves fourth; Leland bettering his position one place; Guy Kalmuck sixth. Third heat: This was practically a repetition of the second heat, the horses getting away in the same positions and finishing exactly the same. Buddy Volo an easy winner. Summary:—Buddy Volo (H. O'Brien) 1-1-1; Nita Volo (L. O'Brien) 3-2-2; Guy Kalmuck (C. O'Brien) 5-3-3; Major Boves (C. O'Brien) 4-4-4; Leland (McNeill) 5-5-5. Time: 2:28, 2:25 1/2, 2:25 1/2. The owner of the winning horse was G. H. Barbour, M.L.A., Alberton. Senator Barbour is now the owner of My Darling 2.08 1/5.

On the same afternoon the Three Year Old Trot and Pace was won by Guy Ann 2.16 1/2, owned and driven by George Calbeck, with 1-1-1; Millie Kalmuck (W. Kelly) 3-2-2; Miss Victoria (Cameron) 2-3-3; three other starters, best time 2:16 1/2. On Sept.

The Free For All Trot and Pace held the previous day was won by Tracey Hanover 2.03 from the Avery stable, Woodstock, and driven by Earle Avery, with 1-1-1; Marjorie M. 2.07 1/2; (Jabalee) 2-2-2; Royal Hanover 2.06 1/2; (Hood) 3-3-3; Bud Wenger 2.06 1/2; (Smith) 3-4-4. Time: 2:07 1/2, 2:07 1/2, 2:10. The previous year Bud Wenger 2.05 1/2, owned by Vic Holdaway, Houlton, Me. and driven by Earle Avery, had set up the present track pacing record at Charlottetown Exhibition—2:05 1/2. That tough pacer Marjorie M. had won the 2.11 Trot and Pace two days previously with this summary: Marjorie M. 2.07 1/2 (Jabalee) 1-1-1; Bud Wenger 2.05 1/2 (Avery) 3-2-2; Plucky Scott 2.06 (McKenna) 2-4-3; Royal Hanover 2.06 1/2 (Hood) 3-3-4; Abner T. Clegg 2.04 1/2 (Rudderham) 4-5-6; The Great Guy 2.02 1/2 (Conroy) 5-6-5. Time: 2:09 1/2, 2:11, 2:10 1/2.

That same year at Montague, Aug. 4th, the 2.15 Trot and Pace was won by Abner T. Clegg 2.04 1/2 (Rudderham) with 1-1-1; Signal Senator 2.08 1/2 (Sweeney) 3-1-2; Plucky Scott 2.06 (N. Walker) 2-4-3; Peter Reaper 2.07 1/2 (MacKinnon) 4-4-3. Time: 2:11 1/2, 2:09 1/2, 2:13. Abner T. Clegg was owned by Alderman Frank Adams of Halifax, N.S. He had raced sensationally prior to 1936, taking his record over a half-mile track and winning several very hard-fought races. Prior to his purchase by Frank Adams he had been in an accident and he was not in a position to do full justice to himself when he raced in the Maritimes.

The free-for-all for pacers promise to be outstanding this season in the U.S.A. Never before have so many great pacers been prepared for the fray. Their first meeting will be at Rosecroft Raceway, Oxon Hill, Md. and a total of 21 stakes are entered for that event there. Among them is Way-zoff 2.03 3/5, who holds the track pacing record at Foxboro and will be one of the starters in the \$25,000 pacing derby at Vernon Downs, N. Y., July 15th. He is owned by Fred Snow, Pine Point, Maine. He is seven years old and is by Royal Napoleon 2.01 1/2 and his dam is Jane Azoff 1.59 1/2. He took his record as a three-year-old and was sensational that season. Last year he won \$6,860.

We understand that the fair grounds at Lewiston, Maine, has been sold. For years it was the home of the State Fair and a great racing center. In all probability racing will be conducted on as large, if not a larger, scale than in the past.

They are stepping along quite fast at Orlando now, probably owing to the fact that racing plants will be opening very shortly. Del Miller has been a mile in 2:19 1/2, final quarter in .33 with his pacing colt Great Walter by Poplar Byrd. Tom Carlock worked the three-year-old trotter Sigma Nu by Titan Hanover 1.56 1/2 a mile in 2:11 2/3, final quarter in .31 seconds. In addition to the above the fastest mile by a two-year-old trotter this season was that of Way Ahead, a son of Algiers 1.58 4/5 and Precise 2.03 1/2. He set the two-year-old colt training record for the season at 2:17 2/5 with the last quarter in .31 1/5. Way Ahead was bred at Gainesway Farm, Lexington, Ky. and has shown all Spring that he is one of the top colts at Southern tracks. The previous fastest mile this season by a two-year-old was that of Tyrant 2.19 2/5, also at Orlando.

Hunters' Corner

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is something more than animate clay; it stems from the knowledge that human minds encompass sensibilities that, though difficult to describe, are very real and permit inclusion in our vocabularies of such words as love, respect and human understanding and sportsmanship. There can be no

2, 1936, at Halifax, a new track trotting record of 2:08 1/2 was set up by High Toby, owned by H.T. Fulton, Upper Stewiacke, and driven by Bill Cummings, in a match race against Silk Girl, owned by P.J. Murphy of Halifax and driven by Frank Boutilier. Silk Girl had previously lowered the Charlottetown trotting record of 2:06 1/2 at the P. E. I. Exhibition that year when she was lowered on Labor Day, Sept. 7th to 2:08 1/2 by Heatherbell, owned and driven by the writer. Here is a summary of the Three Year Old Futurity Trot and Pace raced at Charlottetown, Wednesday, Aug. 18, 1937:—Anne Worthy (Rudderham) 1-1-1; Major Boves (M. Steele) 2-2-2; Nita Volo (L. O'Brien) 5-2-3; Leland (W. Kelly) 3-3-3; Volo Scott (Schuman) 4-4-4; Buddy Volo (H. O'Brien) 8-6-7; Fairy Waltz (Arbinger) 9-8-6; Margaret's Abbe (Cameron) 6-9-dr.; Hillside Jack (Kenedy) 7-7-dr. Time: 2:23 1/2, 2:19 1/2, 2:21 1/2. The winning horse was owned by Ollie Rudderham, Point Edward, N.S.

One of the most thrilling races that ever took place over the Charlottetown track was on Friday afternoon, August 29th of the above meeting. The pacer Viking 2.09 had been purchased by Richard Jabalee of North Sydney, N.S., two days previous to the race and placed in the hands of Jimmie Smith. Viking had cost the new owner somewhere close to \$1,000, but successful speculation wiped out the price and left a margin to the good summary:— 2.15 Trot and Pace: Viking 2.09 (J. Smith) 4-1-1; Quaker Girl 2.09 1/2 (Burgess) 1-2-2; Signal Senator 2.08 1/2 (Sweeney) 2-5-5; Plucky Scott 2.06 (McKenna) 9-4-3; Dolly Azoff 2.07 (E. Avery) 6-3-6; Peter Onward 2.11 1/2 (Morris) 3-8-7; Trixie Volo 2.11 (T. Semple) 10-6-4; Abner T. Clegg 2.04 1/2 (Rudderham) 5-7-8; Signal Senator 2.08 1/2 (F. Calbeck) 7-9-9; Grace Symbol (Hayes) 8-10-dr.; Patrick Direct 2.07 1/2 (Walker) 11-dia. Time: 2:09 1/2, 2:09, 2:09 1/2.

It's not only our woodlots that have been depleted. Thousands of trout and eels have been destroyed by starch residue. Sixty from gravel washing have ruined formerly good trout slash and pools. Sawdust pollution is making its harmful influence felt in all three counties. Indiscriminate spraying of insecticides has cut deeply into the ranks of our song and insectivorous birds. The little slate coloured junco with a white feather on either side of its tail is becoming exceedingly rare. Twenty years ago they were one of the most common species of insectivorous birds. Gardens were their favourite habitat and thus were brought into close contact with sprays.

There is a remedy for pollution from starch refuse, sawdust and silt but at the cost of money and some trouble. Those responsible for pollution entering our streams raise the cry: "Sport must not interfere with industry." Let the vast army of anglers take up the slogan, and mean business, "Industry shall not interfere with healthful recreation." and see what happens. I hope I have not painted too gloomy a picture but it is not too late to remedy the situation. At the present rate of deterioration in another 10 years restoration efforts will require time and expense in proportion. The late Jack Miner foresaw what was going to happen to Nature 40 years ago. Let us join together and keep our

doubt that some communion with nature is essential to maintenance of this quality. Thus, while we cannot question the priority of progress and better living, we can ask ourselves to define, in our own minds, what elements contribute to progress and constitute the better life."

Yes, what constitutes the better life? Is it streams and rivers devoid of trout and salmon that have been polluted beyond the safety margin? Is it marshes and lakes barren of waterfowl, shore birds, muskrats or other forms of life? Is it dry watersheds and unsightly tracts of rotting stumps and dead snags? No—Certainly not. It means clear, gravelly brooks, shady pools, the splash of feeding trout or the swirl of a mighty salmon. It means long skeins of waterfowl on the horizon, the pulse stirring honking of wild geese, the sweet, flute-like notes of curlew. It means quiet, shady watercourses, red winged black birds swaying on the flags, the V of a swimming muskrat, the hollow elusive note of the bittern . . . as the poet wrote "booming from the sedgy shallow."

"Are we in danger of losing this heritage?" do I hear someone ask. Yes, in this age of progress bulldozers and other mechanical monsters devised for the destruction of nature as it was created, it could happen. Take stock of what has happened during the past 10 years. Whole areas of spruce forests, thousands of acres in extent, have been turned into deserts of matted and so deep that second growth has't a chance. The beautiful valley of the West River at Bonshaw, where 10 years ago on its slopes stately spruce and hemlock lifted their heads skyward and the green tracery of birch, beech and maple reflected the sunshine and their leaves whispered together in the evening quiet, is now a monument to man's destruction that will take a half century to erase. The whine of power saws, the ring of axes, the laboured rumble of trucks have ceased. For the time being Nature can lick her wounds in peace.

Seven years ago I flew low over the eastern section of Kings county. From the head of North Lake to the Head of Fortune stretched mile upon mile of unbroken spruce greenery. Then the pulp boom hit the province. Dealers from the mainland vied with each other in competition and pulp prices climbed to a record figure. Three years later I flew over the same route.

One would think that an army of monsters from Mars had been at work. No system was employed . . . Just rip, tear and destroy. What is it like now I have no desire to find out. What is there to show for the money obtained from this systematic rape of Nature? I do know that a sizeable portion of it went into second hand cars and liquor. Not a very substantial investment.

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Garden Province as Nature intended it should be.

Returns from the plebiscite on opening dates for geese, ducks, huns and pheasants are slow coming in. Less than 200 on March 31 and we have an estimated 10 to 12 thousand hunters in the province. Nevertheless even the slow percentage of returns received indicate a fairly definite trend. A breakdown shows the majority favours October 10 for geese, Huns and Pheasants and October 1 for ducks. There is also a marked preference shown to have the same opening date for all four species of game birds listed. Naturally there is a wide divergence of opinion in the opening dates for ducks but

September 28, October 1, 10, and 15, have preference. For your information and to satisfy your curiosity I'll give you the votes on those dates Sept. 25-17, Oct. 1-38, Oct. 10-25, Oct. 15-10. There is a natural inclination for those opposed to the seasons set last year as to opening date, October 10, for all four, to get busy and vote. I know a lot of hunters who are satisfied with the dates set last season and yet are inclined to rest on their oars. Don't sit back now and beef afterward. Furthermore at least 1,000 returns are needed to furnish an accurate overall picture. This is the last call to the Dial . . . if you haven't a printed ballot form send your choice by letter.

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