

### Back Stretch

of page 343 is a photo showing Mrs. Betty O'Brien accepting the Historic Dickerson cup from E. Roland Harriman, after Scott Frost and Joe O'Brien were victorious in four tough heats. Joe is holding Scott's trophy.

In the summaries of Roosevelt Raceway in the latest Harness Horse we find Earle Avery winning the B Trot, purse \$2,500, with Pilot Mignon in 2:06, the B Pace, purse \$2,500, with Dale Fingo in 2:09 1/5, the B Trot, purse \$2,500, with Ulehen Fingo in 2:08 1/5 and also winning places in a number of other races. The Handicap Trot, purse \$6,000 last week was won by Katie Key, driven by Joe O'Brien, in 2:04 1/5.

Stanley Dancer was leading the drivers at Roosevelt last week with 65 wins. Billy Haughton was second with 68. Saunders Russell, who drives for Dick Leck of Sydney, and others, had 30 wins. Stanley Dancer will be remembered as a sensational driver a few years ago, then he had a breakdown and is now making a great comeback.

At Vernon Downs Raceway last week young Wendell Wathen Jr. celebrated his 20th birthday and won the featured pace of the night with the Nibble Hanover 4-year-old Famous Mite in 2:01 1/5. This will be very pleasing to his grandfather, S. A. Wathen, who many will remember because of the interest he took in racing here, sending down horses year after year and setting up a track record with Eula H. of 2:08.

People who visit the farm of Lennie Hennessey at Bear River near Souris, P. E. I., are always interested when Lennie shows them a 2-year-old gelding by Playdale, dam Sally by Frisco Direct, and the 3-year-old Abbe R. by Abbe Worthy out of the same dam. The former is dark brown and the latter a light chestnut. Both are almost perfect specimens with plenty of bone and muscle and show real evidence of breeding. Their ancestors on both sides are high-class and if given an opportunity they should take fast records. They are the property of Jos. K. Moore of Souris.

Jimmie Floe, who is visiting his daughter Mrs. Joe O'Brien and Joe at Goshen, N. Y., has sent us a copy of an interview with Joe written by Michael Strauss which appeared in last Saturday's New York Times. It gives a good idea of what a trainer is up against when he is developing world's champion trotters and pacers. "A four-year-old entry in the Aug. 3 Hambletonian—that's the exciting prospect Joe O'Brien is contemplating these days at Roosevelt

Raceway. The hopefuls of the trainer-driver include Scott Frost and Butch Hanover. Scott was named the winter-book favorite for the Hambletonian last year. Butch was No. 2. The others are Dragon Fly and Home Free. O'Brien expects that pair to develop quickly enough to get into the colorful fixture, too. If they do, it will be one of the rare times a trainer has started a quartet in the rich Goshen classic.

"Sol A. Camp, a cotton and potato grower from Shafter, Calif., is the elated owner of the four stars. He has turned over a good part of his California ranch to the sport. Victory in the Hambletonian is one of Camp's fondest dreams. The classic—worth \$106,830 last year and \$117,117 in 1953—is to trotting what the Kentucky Derby is to the thoroughbred sport. It's the 3-year-old trot an owner wants to win most. But a winning Hambletonian entry doesn't come easily. O'Brien can attest to that. He recalls that Camp paid \$42,000 for White Hanover in 1948. The horse was never fast enough to get into the classic. In fact, he never even won a race. He was sold after his sophomore season. In 1951, Camp bought D'Artagnan for \$27,000. O'Brien thought that one had a chance. He was about to pay the starting fee of \$1,000 when a groom hustled up to him. He had news. D'Artagnan had just cracked his right hind foot. O'Brien's groom says that the trainer had only one comment: 'Son of a ghoaster'. It's O'Brien's favorite expression but no one knows what it means—not even O'Brien.

"Then there was Mighty Sun, who cost Camp \$28,000. Mighty Sun never did develop into a trotter. It was said that a three-legged mule could go around a track faster than he could trot. But Mighty Sun surprised everyone. Converted into a pacer, he eventually was clocked in an amazing 1:58 3/5. So it is not surprising that Camp and O'Brien are not allowing themselves to overenthuse. They do not deny that Scott Frost and Butch Hanover caused as much discussion as any young trotters in history. They don't deny that the 'pappy' of the two horses, Hoot Mon, won the Hambletonian in 1947. Pinning down the owner and trainer, however, is not necessary. The facts and clockings speak for themselves. The pair can't overlook the fact that last summer Scott developed into the fastest juvenile trotter ever to circle an oval. Campaigning at Lexington, Ky., last September, Scott was timed in 2:00 flat. It was a performance that left horsemen gasping. Never had a 2-year-old pacer gone that fast, either.

"Two days later, Mutch Hanover, who had been timed in 2:03 4/5 in his first race, trotted a mile in 2:02 4/5. If Scott had not recorded his amazing performance two days earlier, Butch's showing would have been hailed as extraordinary. Last Wednesday night Scott took the \$15,000 Old Country Mile at Roosevelt Raceway. That race was rated by many as a preview of the Hambletonian. As for Dragon Fly and Home Free, they began to gain prominence late in 1954. Dragon won his last two starts of the season and emerged with a clocking of 2:05. Home Free captured his last race of the year in 2:06; previously he had done 2:03 4/5. The other day at Roosevelt between races, O'Brien said he thought Scott was the fastest of the four. He pointed out, however, that the picture could change overnight. He said 'the picture' had changed all through last season.

"Home Free was the best of the four early last year", he pointed out. "He was easier to handle and was ready to race before the others. He went a little lame about August but then Scott and Butch began to click. In August Butch looked to be best. He won his first race at Sedalia. The following week, he went against Scott in one of those heat affairs. Each took a dash. In the final heat, however, Butch won when he went the final quarter in thirty seconds."

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"Getting the horses ready has been no easy matter. O'Brien, who is from Alberton, Prince Edward Island, will vouch for that. He says a new problem always seems to arise right after an old one has been solved. 'Take Scott Frost, for example,' he says. 'He was a bit contrary in his early training. He kept breaking and seemed to have no interest in racing. He'd go for a little, then would say the heck with this and go into a break. Then when everything seemed all set at Goshen last year, he hit his sulky during a race and broke st. In his next start at Vernon, he did it again. I realized his a was such that his hind feet came very far back because he had a long stride and lots of power.

"So I had to have a special bike built by the Houghton people. Now his sulky has a 92-inch shaft, a 52-inch width and a 31-inch height. The standard dimensions are 88, 52 and 29. Butch also gave me trouble. He was flighty. He was hard to get to go to training but I thought he showed more flashes of speed than Scott. He had a tender mouth and the bit bothered him. It caused him to go into breaks. Then, when I thought I had him going good, he suffered a separation of the right foot. With both Scott and Butch in peak form, O'Brien is sitting pretty for the Hambletonian. But the Canadian reinsman, who was the second top money winner last year, probably will refuse to commit himself. 'Son of a ghoaster,' he protests. 'Everyone knows anything can happen in a horse race.' Three other friends have also sent us a copy of the above and we wish to thank them most

The Sydney Sports Centre which had missed some races due to rain, had a dandy program and

merely for their kind thoughtfulness.

Jupiter Plutonium—commonly known as rain—played havoc with racing at nearly all the tracks in the Maritimes over the weekend and early this week but we have some summaries which have not been credited. One of the largest crowds of the season was present at the Charlottetown Raceway on Monday night and saw some lively racing. In the 1st and 5th dashes Famous Box (Smith), owned by Mayhew and Smith, was 2-1; Bob Clegg (E. Bernard) owned by E. R. Ford, 1-2. Time: 2:15 3/5, 2:17 2/5—both new records. In the 2nd and 6th dashes Queen Primrose, owned and driven by Claude O'Brien was 1-1; Laurel Chief (Birt) 2-3; Sleepy Sam (Hennessy) 4-2. Time: 2:17, 2:16 3/5—both new records for Queen Primrose, a daughter of Peter Primrose, the California sire. The 3rd and 7th dashes for trotters were won by Real Fingo (L. O'Meara) owned by Mrs. E. Mustacalis; Feather Duster (MacKinnon) 2-3; Miss Mite (Barrieau) 3-2. Time: 2:16 4/5, 2:16 2/5. In the 4th and 8th dashes—actually a free for all—Sir Joseph (A. Llewellyn) owned by H. R. Bevan was 2-1; Ann's Dream (G. Callbeck) owned by Jack Curran, 1-3; Bay State Pat (MacGregor) 3-2. Time: 2:12, 2:09 1/5. The track was quiet; heavy when this final heat was raced and the time was considered extremely good.

At Fredericton last Monday night there was very keen racing and eight horses in single dash winners, five owned in New Brunswick and three by Maine owners. In the 1st dash Susy Spirit, owned and driven by C. Cluff, Woodstock, was 1-1; Gail Budlong (B. Ryan), owned by P. Grant, Houlton, Me., was 2-1. Time: 2:19 2/5. In the 2nd dash the trotter Lakeburn (Aikins) owned by Aikins & Downey, Fredericton, 1-1; King Hedgewood (Giberson) 2-1; time 2:17 1/5. In the 3rd and 6th dashes Miss Ellis (McAlduff), owned by Ellis Thompson, Newcastle, was 1-7; Chris McElwain (Troy) owned by Bob Brown, Woodstock, 3-1. Time: 2:17, 2:15 3/5. In the 4th and 7th dashes Mt. Carroll (McAlduff), owned by Rowe Sylvester, Mars Hill, Me., was 1-8; Billy June (Imman), owned by J. N. Porter, Easton, Me., was 3-1; Top Royal (Creamer) 2-2. Time: 2:12, 2:15 4/5. In the 5th and 8th dashes First Again (Imman), owned by J. N. Porter, Easton, Me., was 1-2; Bayonne (Ryan), owned by W. H. Wilson, Fredericton, 4-1. Time: 2:09 2/5, 2:11.

A heavy downpour curtailed the racing program at Moncton Raceway Monday night and only one of the eight scheduled dashes was raced. Helen Hoosier was the winner with Island Star 2, time 2:21 3/5.

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### Hunter's Corner

hopes of a heavy strike and—nothing happened. After a few more tries with a slight jiggling of the bait without any action the angler moves on looking for another deep eddy or riffle and repeats the performance. . . nary a nibble. Efforts may be rewarded later on with a few tentative nibbles and perhaps a trout or two. The angler leaves with the firm conviction that the stream is either fished, or poached, out. If he only could have seen the number of trout some of those hide-outs held and the big 'un that was beginning to get restless and a square tail, as wide as the palm of ones hand, beginning to make the gravel bottom give off smoky puffs of discolor, just as he withdrew his offering, it would cause him a sleepless night. More often than not trout are there . . . lots of them. They were either not in the mood to rise or the vibration caused by heavy footsteps as the angler walked the stream bank put the finny occup-

ants in a cagey mood. This takes time to wear off and until it does trout will keep their mouths shut. On Wednesday morning of this week I was present when Dr. M.W. Smith, Director of the Fisheries Research Board, St. Andrews, N. B., conducted a fish population survey on Gurney's Stream, Covehead, with the aid of an electronic gadget. Messrs. Wilf Saunders, Claude Hayes and Harold Ross from the Research Station at Ellerslie were the electrifying crew.

The stream on which the experiment was conducted is one of the most abused fishing spots in the province. The schools of trout moving in from the sea in their urge to cold, spring fed water, have to run the gauntlet of nets at Cass's Bridge. Later the survivors that reach the deep alder fringed pools in the streams headwaters, have to keep a sharp eye peeled for the 'jig' and copper wire necklace. . . standard equipment of some who prowls its banks. I have reached the conclusion that trout, particularly in the heavy-weight class, are nobody's fools or else there wouldn't be so many trout left on this stream. I saw hundreds of trout from five inches to two feet in length. The biggest trout attracted by the electrode was a good 5 pounder. In his rush from the under bank hide-out he broke through the electric ring that extends for an approximate six foot radius of the electrode and went under a high-way bridge like a slim, green torpedo . . . a streak in the water and he was gone. Wilf Saunders, standing in hip deep water, guarding the bridge approach. The underwater monster dove between his legs and came within an ace of cutting the feet from under him. He blamed a low tackle for that fumble.

Trout recover in a few seconds once removed from the magnet range and high-tail it to safer quarters. Certain trout were tagged before release. Hundreds of others were not even scooped up in nets, merely counted. One trout was retained for scientific purposes. It weighed 3lbs. 1 oz. The machine used by the Fisheries officials is quite complicated. The generator to supply electric power is carried on a trailer. The electrifying crew were wearing armpit length waders and were carrying some weird objects. They resembled men from Mars more than they did ordinary Cape Breton and Spud Islanders. The one with

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### Provincial Prize Shoot

The annual Prize Shoot of the P. E. I. Provincial Rifle Association will take place July 25th, 26th, 27th starting at 8 a.m. Daylight Time.

A. F. GORMLEY, Major, Secy-Treas.

the tricky rootwork was a Cape Bretoner. He claims they are just 'once removed' from the Spuds. Gurney's wasn't the only stream on which a trout census was taken this season and for a number of past seasons. Its the same story only far more trout than were tabulated at Gurney's. I was told of a little known pool on a stream, a mere trickle in places, in which over 200 trout were counted the majority ranging from one to two pounds in weight. That doesn't necessarily mean that one can barge up to the edge of this pool and haul out a limit of 200 trout in nothing flat. . . trout fishing is not that simple and its just as well. Extreme patience, skill and rubber soles are musts in successful trout fishing. Only a select few have those requirements and they'll remain a select few. Which to quote an old saying: "It's all to the mustard".

Notice To Live Stock Exhibitors

Entries close July 30th, positively no entries accepted after this date. Please get entries in early.

Charlottetown Driving Park and Provincial Exhibition Association

Notice To Exhibitors Of Cattle

All animals must be Banged tested within sixty days of our Exhibition which opens on August 13th.

Charlottetown Driving Park and Provincial Exhibition Association

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The Club Pro, Cecil Dowling, will instruct.

D. H. SAUNDERS,  
Director Junior Development  
Charlottetown Golf Club.

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This is a show in itself. You will delight in the color and spectacle and in the thrill of close finishes.

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This year spectators can view the judging under most favorable circumstances in the new Coliseum.

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SENSATIONAL ACTS, RIDES, ETC.

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