

# Ambro Flight horse of year

TORONTO — Winner of the world's \$100,000 International Trot last summer at New York when she bested the champions of France, Sweden, Norway, Italy, the U.S. and West Germany, Ambro Flight has been voted Harness Horse of the Year in the Canadian Trotting Association poll announced today.

It marked the third successive year that the 4-year-old trotter, owned and bred by Elcin Ted and Charles Armstrong of Brampton, Ontario, and winner of \$493,601 in three seasons of racing, had been the Association's poll headliner. A team of racing secretaries did the balloting.

Lameness after the Roosevelt International kept the daughter of Star's Pride-Helicopter on the inactive list at Joe O'Brien's Shafter, Calif. farm but her trainer-driver, a native of Alberton, P.E.I. will attempt a comeback with Ambro Flight early in the new year.

Ambro Flight's nine wins in 18 starts this year and a world record mile of 1:56 flat earned her the aged trotter of the year award as well in the CTA poll. All award winners will be honoured at the Association's Awards' Night Dinner-Dance here January 12.

Unanimous selections by the race secretaries polled, besides Ambro Flight, were Drummond R. C. (3-year-old trotter) owned by Real Cournoyer of Drummondville, Que., Rose and George Feagan's Goderich, Ont. star, H. A. Meadowland as 2-year-old pacer, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Leblanc's Timely Knight from Quebec City, himself twice previously honoured in this poll, as aged pacer this time. Voted Horseman of the Year was Ernie Fillion the 26-year-old trainer-driver from Montreal, Que., whose horses this season earned in excess of \$500,000, largely off a record for a Canadian-born

# Boston syndicate acquires Dee's Boy

HALIFAX (CP) — Dee's Boy, a 10-year-old stallion twice voted the Maritime harness horse of the year, has been sold to a Boston, Mass. syndicate. He will stand at stud service next year.

Price involved in the sale was not disclosed. Brought to the Maritimes from the U.S. by Don MacKenzie of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia the speedy roan was later acquired by Scottish Stables of Dartmouth. He was purchased several months ago by

# Saint John enjoys longest season

It was the longest harness racing season in the history of Saint John Exhibition Park.

In fact with the racing season not concluding until Dec. 25, it was impossible to get final statistics from the operators in the port city.

However, when this article was written, 61 race programs had been run off and there was promise of more to come.

Things went so smoothly in 1966 that the track management has plans for the earliest opening in history. They are talking about getting moving in late April or at the latest in early May. That means that 1967 will be another record breaker.

The pari-mutuel handled (as of Dec. 10) the amazing total of \$1,386,384, an increase of \$117,554 over the previous year. Total purses for the season reached the high total of \$138,725, a jump of \$27,684 from 1965.

The management reported that they had 84 miles in 2:10 or better. That represents of 20 per cent. A Prince Edward Island horse paced the fastest mile of the year, 2:05.2. It was Sept. 24 when Emmett Bernard drove Yankee Blaze to this mark.

**BEST MILES**

The fastest mile trotted was 2:08.3 and again a Prince Ed-

# Specialist urges Maritime breeding

By DR. J. T. AKINS, Director, Veterinary Branch, Fredericton, N. B.

Harness racing is now a matter of record and records for the 1966 season, and once again officials are planning a new season for 1967, our Centennial Year.

Maritime Colt Stakes are being organized by our racing officials and an appeal for more and more colt stakes should be presented to them by interested groups. Breeders, owners and trainers of Maritime bred colts should be pressing for consideration at our Maritime tracks.

There has always been a great deal of controversy over specifications for Maritime Colt Stakes. Some track operators and a few owners and trainers would like colt stakes open to all colts whether or not they are born and trained in the Maritime provinces, while others would

# Track Betting in Canada

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driver) 240 wins in Canada and the U.S.

**JEAN GETS NOD**

In the 2-year-old pacing division, the nod went to Jean and Russ Miller's Dutton, Ont. colt, Blaze Pick, winner of 12 of 17 starts, including the Canadian Juvenile Circuit final at Montreal's Blue Bonnets wherein he established a track and personal record mile of 2:02.2. It probably the most contentious division of the lot, Blaze Pick narrowly out-finished Sharp 'N Smart, C. K. Adois and Lynden Dodger in the balloting.

Governor Ambro, honoured a year ago as the 2-year-old trotter, won this year's 2-year-old division ahead of such contending nominees as Perfect Mir and Ambro Gazelle. Another of the U.S. - Campaigned Armstrong string, Governor Ambro, had earnings of \$85,355, among his three wins, a straight heat victory (one mile in his record 2:00.2) in the Kentucky Futurity, one of the U.S. triple crown events. Among his 10 second place finishes, Governor Ambro earned one of them in another triple crown event, the Yonkers Futurity.

Cournoyer's Drummond R. C. battled and best some of the best U.S.-owned 2-year-old trotting colts, namely in the Reynolds' Stake at Buffalo and took a handsome season's mark of 2:06.4 on Saratoga's half mile oval, winning en route just over \$98,000 off his eight wins, four seconds and one third in 19 starts.

Winner of the Canadian Racing Derby at Toronto's Greenwood Raceway, H. A. Meadowland turned the tables on his chief rival, Golden Blend, the 2-year-old pacer of 1965. Feagan's colt lowered his lifetime pecking mark to 1:58.2 at Vernon, N. Y. in one of his 11 wins in 17 starts for the year in which he had winnings of \$42,639.

# BETTING UP AGAIN

Pari-mutuel betting at thoroughbred racetracks across Canada rose steeply for the 12th straight year, reaching a new high of \$184,682,860 this year, up nearly \$15,000,000 from 1965. The amount of money wagered at racetracks has more than doubled since 1955. (CP Newsmag)

is really coming into its own throughout the Maritimes. The fact that we have so many good free-for-alls, and so many good colt stakes, accounts for most of the success.

Track managers in the Maritimes have a program second to none which enables all Maritimes bred two and three year olds to get plenty of action. Several years ago they were only able to race once a year. This didn't provide much incentive for an owner to go to the expense of training these youngsters for just one race. With all the colts stakes now available, it encourages owners to raise their own.

Here in Charlottetown, Frank Acorn has already published stakes of two, three and four year old Maritime bred colts that will encourage owners to breed and train young horses, enabling them to participate in these events, and, we hope, entice new owners into the race game. Looking back at last season's racing, several performers increased their earnings as much as \$5,000 which is real shot in the arm to owners.

I would suggest that any owner who has a colt to start now in the preparation for these stakes. You never know in this game. This might be your big year. Best of luck and good racing.

**RECORDS**

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Maritime-bred four-year-old over a Maritime oval and also the fastest Maritime-bred mare, with a 2:06.4 clocking at Halifax regardless of age. Midnight Bolt, earlier in the year, had held the four-year-old (ab) while Jerry's Nightmare, with a 2:05 clocking is owned by J. Cecil Bowes of Newcastle and veteran Telix Colette was her trainer-driver.

The Downs, in its fourth year, swung open its gates on May 23 for its earliest opening and concluded the season on Nov. 12 for a total of 51 meets. Last year's campaign from May 29 to Nov. 6 had 55 cards.

The drop in days, in spite of a longer season, resulted from management's decision to drop Monday's from the tracks; July and August schedule, after two tries. In the '65 campaign, the Moncton oval gained an extra nine nights through the use of Mondays.

From the resulting drop in programs, total wagering and purse figures show a slight decline, although the daily averages show a slight increase. The '66 season brought a total of \$82,000 at the mutuels and \$78,545 in purses. The previous season's bet went to an all-time high of \$643,000 with purses, also a record high \$82,000.

The CNR's national strike, coming early in September, "hurt" wagering at Moncton, according to track management. "When the strike came, we were running about 10 per cent ahead of last year... when we ended September, we were just on a par with last year", a spokesman noted. The effect of the strike lingered with the track well into November, he added.

**REALLY HUMMING**

On the sporting side of the track's activities, racing was really humming and the season was regarded as perhaps the finest ever in Moncton. The number of "2:10" miles recorded was 75 with another 52 clocked between 2:10 and 2:11. The 75 however, fell 15 short of the all-time high of 90 recorded in 1963.

"While the 2:10 miles for '66 was not a record, it was a big increase over last year... just about doubled" said the track's president and general manageringham Palmer Jr. "What seemed to be the big accomplishment was the number of new track records, coupled with the tremendous improvements in performances by our own Maritime-bred stock" he added.

Of the approximately 450 dashes over the Moncton track, close

to 150 of them were won by horses stepping to new or reduced records, which is by far, a new all-time record for the track.

Early in May, the Downs called in Charlie Willis of O'Leary P.E.I. former operator of "The Parlor Track" at Covehead, to supervise a re-surfacing job on the oval. "The improvement amazed us all" Palmer said, adding "You have to give the horses, their trainers and drivers some credit for the faster miles, but Willis certainly deserves a lot of credit for the job he did... it really helped, beyond the expectations of most of us".

Aside from the three new Maritime records established by Miramichi Fred and Miramichi Carla, the Downs also picked up new records or practically every age group and gait.

Stan Mayhew's Highley's Way

to Herman Renaud at the helm, racked up a new trot standard of 2:07.4, shading the 1947 mark of 2:08 set up by Joe O'Brien and Sunnymede and equalled in 1964 by Little Quinton with Walter MacLean aboard.

Milton Downey, up behind his Comte Bibehele, lowered the track tall for four-year-olds from Dave Grattan's 2:05.2 to 2:04.4 in winning the first dash of The Monctonian Preview. Wild Chance, as he did practically.

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# UNSEASONABLE

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on top at the 4 in 1:36.4 and was never challenged in the stretch as he finished the mile in 1:08, a season's record for the aged pacer. Little Major nipped Onaway by a length for the place position. It was a great day for local owners who received more than \$1280.00 of the \$1664.00 purse. In this corner's opinion, this was the highlight of a great season at the local oval.

While not achieved on our local oval, of particular pride and joy to the harness buffs here, was the outstanding performance of Eliza Williamson's fine seven-year-old stallion, Starbuck, who toured the half mile oval at Charlottetown Raceway in a record 2:04.4 a new win race mark and a new record for a Maritime Bred on a Maritime track. Reined and trained by

May 1967 be crowned with success for all Maritime horsemen... and may 1967 see many track records broken! To all those associated with the sport of kings, we wish health and happiness in the year ahead.

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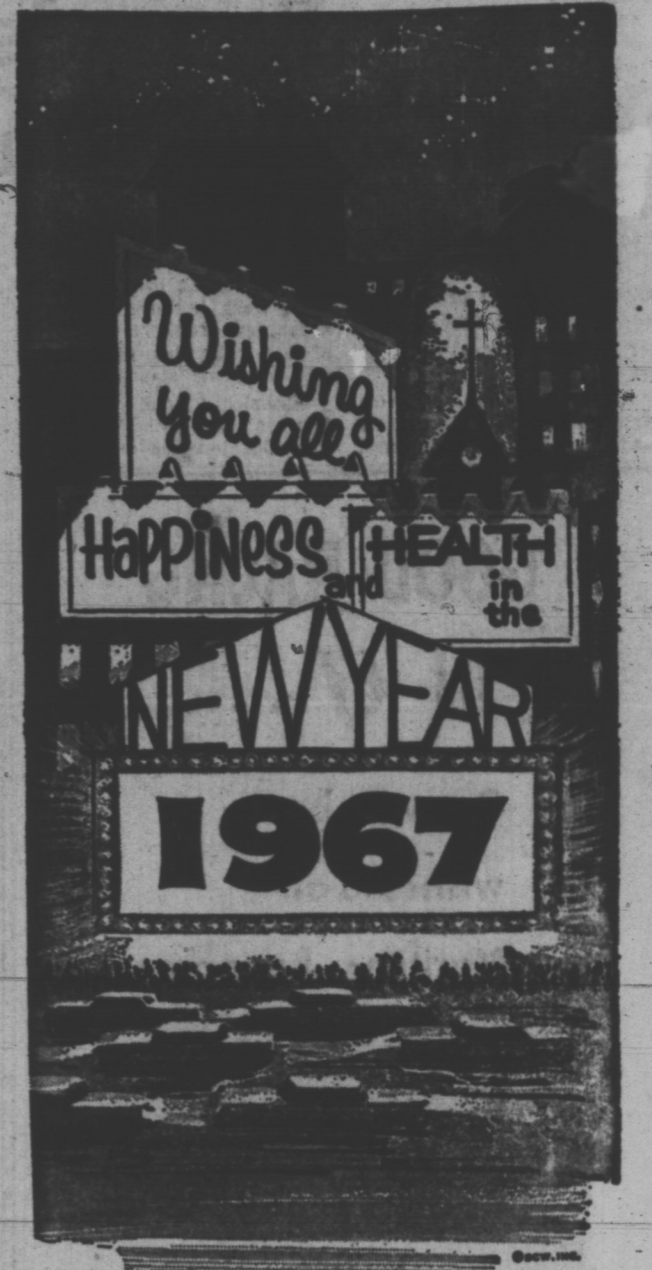
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