

Hunter's Corner

old fishin' holes and goose ponds and also to find out what was transpired during the winter from my various contacts. Trout fishermen are braving the chill March winds and staying right on the job whether they are biting or not. Some beauties have been created but the general catch has not been high. Weather conditions have not been favorable as a general rule. Ten trout were caught by Walter Carver, were homes. I have checked a lot of catches in my time but do not recollect any that equaled his one.

The trout were almost identical and would average approximately a pound and a quarter each. They were deep set silver trout with rounded sides. It was a fortunate conclusion that those had not aged up in some fresh water but hole all winter eking out a pearly living on what the water carried down to them. Theirs was a diet of shrimp, capelin, versides and smelts.

Method of the school came in the tide following the success of fare provided by the deep and the lucky angler happened to be in the right place at the right time. It has long been this fishermen's opinion that fresh trout come in on the tide in the winter time and back again as it begins to recede. Patience pays off in the trout fishing game. In this particular instance the angler started fishing at 8 o'clock in the morning and it was two in the afternoon before he got his first strike. It was after two hours. A companion's net was falling five or six feet just reaching the bottom of the channel. He also began to take trout at the same time but they were a smaller run much smaller—eight inches.

I like trout fishing but if I stuck 6 hours in weather like we had the opening morning my wife would be dressing in a garb appropriate for the occasion. I would care for that even if black flies become her... not for trout any case. I have stuck it out pretty well in a goose blind while now flakes driven by a biting wester zipped past my ears that was in another cause.

This week I was meandering around in the country east of Kingsboro and heard of a very interesting incident. A chap I know well asked me this question: "How much electricity can raccoon stand?" I replied that I had had me. I did know that raccoons are tough customers but how tough in contact with electricity I didn't know. Here is the story. One night about a week ago he was walking from Elmira to Kingsboro and spotted three raccoons in a small frog pond beside the highway at South Lake. They were doing a lot of splashing and bickering among themselves—probably quarrelling over a frog. With fifteen dollars plain sight he wasn't long in making it up, but he was only able to keep one fiver in sight. This big, fat lumbering member of the trio shimmied up a power line nearby but stopped short of bottom wire. The man had a



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Back Stretch

starts he won 18 firsts, 8 seconds and three thirds for a percentage of .617—the highest we have ever seen recorded for any driver. His stable was trained at New Egypt, N.Y.

Had a pleasant call from Emmett Bernard of Hunter River, who is looking in the pink and his usual jolly self. He is getting ready Miss Donna Mae 2.11, owned by Harry Macintosh, St. John, Bob Clegg 3, 2.17%, owned by Emerson Ford, City, Joandale 2.15, owned by Louis MacPhee, Bonshaw, Glenda Mae 2.21, owned by Pound & Bullman, Skipper's Pride 2.13 and Sunny B. 2.18%, owned by himself. Emmett is being assisted in the training of these horses by his son.

O'Leary has always been a mainstay of harness racing and this season there are a lot of good ones being readied there for racing. Marne Kennedy is expected to knock a few seconds off Captain Morgan's record of 2.15% which he took as a 4-year-old last year. He showed up as a very game finisher, being first to the wire six times, four times second and five times third with winnings of \$864.50. This year he is eligible to the 2.24 pace. Marne also has a real bright idea. He remembered the day a dog chased the Minister's cat up the power pole at Kingsboro and the minute she came in contact with the wire she came down as dead as a nit. Here was an opportunity to pick up a five spot without any exertion. A well aimed chunk of frozen mud hit Mr. Coon on the rump and up he went.

He navigated around the bottom wire but straddled the top of the pole in good style. There was a shower of sparks that lit up the night like an acetylene welder in operation. The coon gave a couple of sucking noises and with a whiff somewhat backwards of the pole. The sound from its lips was a surprised sound somewhat like a grandchild gets into trouble. As the coon rocketed earthward the hunter thought in a congratulatory vein: "That's the easiest five dollars I ever picked up!"

That's what he thought. The coon landed running and he had to chase it a quarter mile before he was able to gather in the five and he had to use boots, clubs and what have you before the battle ended. I looked the coon over. On its hip flank was a bare patch about the size of an ordinary saucer where the fur had been singed off clean as a whistle and the skin was a reddish colour somewhat like an under done roast. No wonder... that coon had been in contact with seven thousand volts—not much if you say it quick. That's the voltage on the new South Line for I checked with the company. This is one for the book. In my mind's eye I can see Ivor sprinting down the road in his heavy sheep skin coat and rubber boots. He sure earned his \$5.00

We welcome once again to this column Cecil H. McGinley of Houlton, Maine, who, our readers will remember, was so ill last year but is now recovered completely judging by his writing... "Spring is coming slowly to Aristo took County. The Houlton track was kept ploughed all winter and there are high snowbanks on each side that are melting gradually and will keep the track muddy for a long time. At this date the fields are still snow-covered with the bare ground beginning to show through on the knolls, but the snow is deep in the woods and it looks like a late Spring. Most of the local trainers will get their horses ready here and will race at Woodstock and Houlton on July 1 and 4 before shipping away. I enclose a list of dates of Maine Fairs that may interest some of your Island horsemen that make an annual excursion to Maine.

Harold Birmingham has sold seven or eight horses since I wrote to you last. Madge Hy 2.05 went to a buyer in the New York area for a reported price

of \$4,000. She is a good mare. A couple of foals out of the good producing mare Volie Lee 2.09% by Lee Harvester, were sold—Volie Belle 3, 2.12% went to New Jersey and a 2-year-old full brother brought around \$1,500 from a Presque Isle man. Both of these are by Bell Boy 2.01. Bob Ryan sold a couple of Lusty Frisco's 2.07%. One is a 2-year-old filly out of Pine Ridge Norma, dam of Jollity Girl 2.07%. It went to Connecticut, and the other was a 3-year-old stallion, a full brother to Lusty's Gaiety Girl 2.10%, record taken last year as a 4-year-old trotter. She went to Rimouski, Que. A yearling by N. D. Hal 2.05, out of Pine Ridge Norma was sold to a party in Presque Isle. Bob would like to know the material breeding of Lusty's Queen... Thanks, Cecil, and we are delighted to hear from you. The first Fair of the Maine season will be held at Lewiston, dates, July 25 to 30 in clusive; Bangor Fair will run from July 30 to August 6; Skowhegan, August 13 to 20; South Kennebec, Windsor, August 31 to September 5; Oxford, Norway South-Paris, Sept. 12 to 17; Cumberland, Cumberland Centre, Sept. 26 to October 1.

In the final afternoon's racing at Santa Anita track the biggest stake of 1955 was raced—the California Free For All Pace, purse \$17,475. On the cover of the Harness Horse for April 13 the finish is shown, with Freeman Hanover (Kent Cartnal) up, just five trips to the post and was never headed, earning a new mark of 2:02.2 on the final day—Anita Park. The race is described in the Harness Horse as follows: "This was a big day for the pacers with the \$17,475 Californian up for decision. Scottish Chief with his two wins in as many starts over this field was the favorite. Freeman Hanover second choice and Ensign Lad next. Express Hal had the rail then Hawkins Hoss, Freeman Hanover, Meadow Gold and Scottish Chief. Going away Hanson and Adams tried to tuck in behind each other but finally Hawkins Hoss went to the front and was at the quarter in :30% and the half in 1:01% with the field strung out back of him. Reaching the three-quarters Express Hal moved out from the second trailing position and challenged Hawkins Hoss but dropped back and Freeman Hanover moved up. The pace was increasing with every step and it was not until just before they reached the wire that Freeman Hanover was able to get in front

of the Walter Found owned gelding. The mile in 2:00, last half in :58%, last quarter in 29 Express Hal was third and Scottish Chief fourth. The Cartnal trained stallion again proved his class as only an outstanding horse could have outfinished the flying Hawkins Hoss. The latter also served notice that he will be hard to handle in his races this year, as he did it the hard way today and lacked only inches of getting the decision."

The many friends of Walter S. Found, formerly of New London, will be glad to learn that he has had such great success this season with his two horses, and a prediction made some time ago that Hawkins Hoss would go in 2:00 was pretty nearly fulfilled. Walter's winnings for the meet were \$12,087. Top winning owner was Cyrus Bell with \$20,750. Top winning driver was Stan Adams with \$29,405. Next was Joe O'Brien with \$24,410 and third was the 77-year-old Bi Shively with \$22,042. Joe O'Brien was away out in front among the drivers with 15 wins, 8 seconds and 4 thirds; Valles Key had nine wins, five seconds and eight thirds and Bi Shively six wins, two seconds and no thirds for third place.

In the annual poll of writers covering the meeting the trotters Sharp Note and Gayleway shared honors as the Horse of the Meet. Sharp Note won the two big trotting events but Gayleway made five trips to the post and was never headed, earning a new mark of 2:02% on the final day—Anita Park. The race is described in the Harness Horse as follows: "This was a big day for the pacers with the \$17,475 Californian up for decision. Scottish Chief with his two wins in as many starts over this field was the favorite. Freeman Hanover second choice and Ensign Lad next. Express Hal had the rail then Hawkins Hoss, Freeman Hanover, Meadow Gold and Scottish Chief. Going away Hanson and Adams tried to tuck in behind each other but finally Hawkins Hoss went to the front and was at the quarter in :30% and the half in 1:01% with the field strung out back of him. Reaching the three-quarters Express Hal moved out from the second trailing position and challenged Hawkins Hoss but dropped back and Freeman Hanover moved up. The pace was increasing with every step and it was not until just before they reached the wire that Freeman Hanover was able to get in front

Race Secretary of the Charlotte-town Driving Park, spoke of their racing programs and probable dates. Finally a committee consisting of Dr. R. F. Seaman, Harold Cudmore, George Gregory, was appointed to meet with E. Roy Bevan and W. G. Gillespie Frank Acorn who stated he would be glad to submit their views to the directors of the Charlotte-town track.

Jim Harrison, publicity director of the United States Trotting Association, has released the following: A panel of prominent owners and trainers has selected Kimberly Kid and Adios Boy as "horses to beat" in the free for all trotting and pacing ranks this year. Panel members, who also named Scott Frost and Quick Chief as the leading contenders in the 3-year-old classes, submitted their pre-season ratings for the May issue of Hoof Beats, official USTA publication, which came out today. The owners and trainers were asked to name the "Horse To Beat" in each class, five horses comprising a first flight, ten in a second flight and in the free for all classes only, the five "most promising newcomers." Kimberly Kid drew the top vote with 495 out of a possible 525 points to lead the free for all trotting class. The Allwood Stable star from Far Hills, N.J., was followed in order by Katie Key (407), Jamie (370), Scotch Victor (352) Sharp Note (294) and Lord Stewart (281).

Adios Boy, who electrified the harness racing world by taking on and beating the free for allers when he was only a 3-year-old last year, polled 477 points against 416 for the veteran Philip Scott. Trailing in order were Hillota (356), Torrid (315), Chuck Volo (312) and Times Square (276). The 3-year-old trotting class proved a walkover for Sol Camp's Scott Frost. The winter book Hambletonian Stake choice drew 474 of a possible 500 points. His Shafter, Cal. stablemate, Butch Hanover, was next with 411. In order behind them came Galashone (377), Childs Hanover (343), Satinwood (273) and Egyptian Boy (268). Closest contest was in the 3-year-old pacing ranks with Farmstead Acres' Quick Chief (435 points) edging Newport Stock Farm's Meadow Ace (406). They were followed by American Way (402), Captain Adios (368), Meadow Leo (368) and Libby's Boy (299). All except Libby's Boy are Little Brown Jug candidates.

A largely attended meeting of horsemen was held in the City Hall on Wednesday night to discuss matters of interest to them. Charles Willis, president of the P.E.L. Harness Racing Circuit Club, acted as chairman and a discussion took place regarding the season's programs and several speakers expressed themselves as hoping that more attention would be given to the slower class horses. Dr. R. F. Seaman, George Gregory, A. S. Wedlock, Ken MacDougall, Andrew Perry, Earl Jins, Harold Cudmore, Wendell Barbour, Doug Hill and others gave their views. E. Frank Acorn.



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Most promising newcomer among the pacers was Adios Harry, last year's Jug winner, with 153 points. Stenographer, Harry's Horse of the Year in 1954, was the top trotter in that category with 111 points.

L. G. Duffy, writing in The Harness Horse, has the following: "The tail on a horse is more than an appendage for the brushing away of flies, it is like a rudder on a boat and very useful particularly so to a horse at speed. Millard Sanders, one of the foremost trainers of his period, the developer and driver of Lou Dillon 1.58%, the first 2:00 trotter, always contended that a trotter raced under a handicap when his tail was tied to the hick and was denied the free use of same as nature intended, as it was responsible for a retarding influence when a horse was being extended. As one thinks of our champions, his contentions appear reasonable, that the more comfortable a horse is rigged the better is he able to make use of the powers which nature provided him.

"While some harness performers are inclined to use their tails more vigorously than others,

when at speed, and cause annoyance to drivers, it seems only natural to assume that if tied to their bikes, hence denied free use of same, they would not go as fast. One of our greatest champions, Titan Hanover 2:20.0, 3:1.58, first 2-year-old to trot in even time, made as much use of his tail as any campaigner, in fact the best photographs of the marvelous colt failed to reveal a distinct likeness of his developer and driver, Harry Pownall, but the latter very wisely was willing to undergo the discomfort. It is only natural to figure that a horse as well as a man, can and invariably will, put forth a greater effort and do a better job when comfortable. We will recall an incident at a Cleveland track which proves the point. Jim Gattcomb and the writer had wagered on a certain pacer, and following the first heat, he said: "Our horse is going too rough behind to whip this crowd, let's drop over and see him before the next heat," which we did, then when we saw him being hooked up, Jim said, "If you know the driver well enough to ask him a question without his taking offence, inquire if his horse always wears the support as tight as it is, the straps are imbedded so

deep in the stallion's sides that they are hardly visible." We put the question and the trainer-driver looked and then said: "No indeed, thanks," then he dropped each strap a couple of holes. The horse then went flat and smooth and won in decisive style, the tension being eliminated."

We are indebted to Wes Nicholson, barber of this City, for a copy of the Horseman and Spirit of the Times dated Dec. 14, 1909, with an article entitled "Long Races of the Long Ago," part of which we will use in this column later. Wes had his 63rd birthday recently and received many congratulations.

COLOR TV WHEN—
SUDBURY (CP)—How soon Canada will have color television is up to the set manufacturers, says A. D. Dunton, chairman of the CBC. Mr. Dunton told a women's club Wednesday night he is prepared to sanction color TV in Canada "when circumstances are such that the manufacturers are able to turn out sets of good pure performance at a price that a good number of Canadians can afford—that is, about \$400 to \$500."

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