

Young Raccoons As Pets Raise Problem On Bounty

July left little to be desired so far this summer but methinks the mood is about to undergo a change. The trend of sultry heat, the soft sunsets, the waves reflected from the ribbed sand beaches will not be so continuous. On Thursday evening of this week my better half and I watched the sunset at Langley Beach. It reminded me of late August sunsets when Dad and I returned, with old Maud and the Spring Wagon, through Auburn after a days plover shooting in the Haggerty's Wharf area of the East River. The sunset on Thursday evening whispered that Autumn was just around the corner.

mink's kiss of death... he slit its jugular vein as neat as you please.

KNOWS TRICKS

When the mink caught a member out of the tame ducks' brood it was quite natural for me to be concerned about the three broods of wild ducks on the marsh. I asked the farmer how many of the wild ducklings the mink caught and his reply was enlightening. "I don't think he caught any. Whenever the mink showed up near a wild duck's brood the mother flapped circles around him splashing water all over the place and squawking like all possessed. The young ones scurried to cover in nothing flat and the mink sought a meal elsewhere. I expected a reply along this line for a mother rearing a family in the wild has to know all the tricks of the trade. I have watched a mother duck or partridge lead a dog away by such antics and it also works with a fox. No doubt a mink snaffles the odd duckling meal if he surprises the family too far from water but its not a stunt he can pull whenever the spirit moves him.

BETTER HURRY

At 8:25 p.m. we stopped to snip some wild rose buds to place in a vase. It was so dusky we had to feel for the stems. A month ago it was almost as bright as day at 9:00 p.m. It was a reminder for us to hurry and take all we could from Summer while it was still with us. When I hear the first flute-like whistle of a night of Black-bellied field, I will know for a certainty that fall is just around the corner. The young of our wildlife are beginning to forage on their own. A week or so ago a young lad summering in the country found three young raccoons in a tree. They were about the size of quarter grown kittens. He placed them in a wire cage and has found to his amazement that they'll eat anything he places before them. He bread scraps berries, carrots or grass. They are all the same young pigs and by the time they have reached bounty size they'll have eaten the price of their face masks twice over. Another disturbing thought: They have become so cute and friendly it will be quite a chore to find anyone willing to act as Executioner even at three dollars a throw.

MINK TROUBLE

A few days ago a farmer who lives beside a marsh told me he was having trouble with a large mink. One of his tame ducks took her brood to the marsh and joined up with the wild ducks who have three nice broods of their own on this same marsh. Her brood has dwindled from 11 to 5. Every few days Mr. Mink decides he'd prefer a duck fatter to one of flat fish, gudgeons or trout. Twice when the duck was leading her brood up the channel he saw the mink make the kill. The mink would submerge thirty or forty feet from the swimming brood and in a matter of seconds would pop up within a foot of a luckless duckling. There was no commotion. He'd reach out and touch the duck on the neck with his nose, or so it appeared, and the duck would roll over dead. It was a

Gregor) 4-4, Stalag Hanover dr. You will notice that Mr. Given was not only the owner of the winner, but also the owner and driver of Frenchman, that forced Mighty Glib to equal the track record.

And now we introduce an Island winning owner in Race 8. J. E. Yeo, Miscouche, P. E. I., whose Vera Signal (G. Gaudet) was 1, Beck's Prince (D. Ratchford) 2, Colonel Hansford (N. Campbell) 3, Hamilton Lady (E. Smith) 4, four other starters, time 2:15 4-5.

There was some lively stepping at Fredericton raceway Monday night, where the 4th and 8th dashes were paced in better than 2:10. Here is a brief summary: Bucky Hal (Harper) 1-4, Bruce's Sister (Devlin) 4-1, Scotch Feather (Lindon) 2-3, Vici Hi Lee (Harvey) 3-2, time 2:09 and 2:09. Bucky Hal owned by C. Dickinson; Bruce's Sister owned by Lloyd McKinney.

OUTSIDER

Three Islanders have sent us the sport page of last Monday's edition of the Montreal Gazette, which has a long write-up of the \$10,000 Trans-Canada Pace raced at Blue Bonnets track last Sunday afternoon. It drew a tremendous attendance, and the winner, Great Adios, that was a 12-1 outsider, paid \$27.80 for a \$2 win ticket.

What was most interesting to us is that the horse that made the greatest challenge to the winner was Captain Wright, that is under the excellent care of Archie Llewellyn of Montague.

Reporting the race, the Gazette says: "It took several minutes for the judges to declare a winner. The reason was that the horses finished so close that just a fraction of an inch gave Great Adios the victory. Captain Wright was second, and Bay State Pat third. The fans were so confident of Bat State Pat's ability to win, that they established him a heavy favorite, almost ignoring the other horses." The time was 2:04 2-5, with the first half in 1:03 1-5, Bay State Pat the leading horse at that point. The last half was in 1:01 1-5.

Maritime friends of Dr. J. A. will be glad to learn that he won the 10th. race on the previous

night, purse \$1,200.

FASTFIELD - SLOW TRACK

W. P. Edwards, Fredericton, N.B., was present at Saturday night's races at Gorham, Maine, where the Maine State free-for-all Pace, purse \$8,000, was raced. It brought together a fast field and was won by Canny Scot 2:03, driven by one of the top drivers in the United States - Stanley Dancer, Lee Chip 2:06 2-5 (R. Pearson) 2, Tar Direct 2:06 4-5 (W. Mason) 3, time 2:10 on a slow track. In the second dash with the same field, Canny Scot 1, Lee Chip 2, Tar Direct 3, time 2:09.

Tar Direct is a four-year-old by Tar Heel, and his dam is June Morning 2:04 2-5, that was bred by George MacDonald, Mermaid, P.E.I.

Dow Clowater writes from Fredericton that Bucky Hal and Bruce's Sister stepped the fastest miles on the July 14 card at the Fredericton Raceway with both pacing in 2:09 as they divided wins in the feature junior free-for-all. Bucky Hal won the first heat for owner and driver Clayton Dickinson of Debec, N.B., while Bruce's Sister, owned by Lloyd McKinney of Gagetown and driven by Tommy Devlin, lowered its record by one-fifth of a second in winning the second heat.

Hal's Betty, four-year-old N. D. Hal-Betty Ellis mare owned by H. C. Wilson of Woodstock and driven by Brad Jones, was the only double winner. Hal's Betty took its maiden mark of 2:15 in winning the first heat of its class and took the second in 2:13 4-5. The two 2:09 miles gives the Fredericton Raceway three miles in better than 2:10 to date this season. Since the above performance Hal's Man has won in 2:08 1-5 a seasons record.

We have just learned of the death of our long time friend Bestram Cruikshank of Halifax, N.S. owner of Sackville Downs Raceway and one of the most progressive citizens of Halifax. Through thirty years or more we have met at Maritime Racetracks and owned horses that competed against each other. We always found him a splendid sportsman and gentleman. His passing will be a distinct loss to our sport.



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Backstretch

(Continued from page 8)

pacers to the wire, and, as mentioned above, resulted in Mighty Glib (Harrison) 1-1, equalling the track record of 2:06 4-5; he won the first dash in 2:06. Frenchman (J. Given) was 2-2, Jet Master (L. Walker) 3-3, Jolley Lad (E. Smith) 4-4, Raven Abbe (J. Mac-



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