

DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

At the meeting of the Grand Circuit stewards held in Columbus, December 12th, two new members were added with Hazel Park near Detroit, race meet June 7 to 12 and Vernon Downs, Vernon, N. Y., July 26 to 31. Those dates and the ones granted to 17 other tracks means that 1954 programs will extend for a 26 week racing period. The following is the complete dates of the circuit: Yonkers Raceway, May 10-22; Hazel Park, June 7-12; Old Country Trotting Ass'n., Roosevelt Raceway, June 14-July 3; Historic Track (Goshen, N.Y.), July 5-10; Nassau Trotting Ass'n. (Roosevelt Raceway), July 12-17; Saratoga Raceway, July 19-24; Vernon Downs, July 26-31; Good Time Park (Goshen, N.Y.), Aug. 1-7; Wolverine Raceway, Aug. 10-14; Springfield, Ill., Aug. 16-20; Sedalia, Mo., Aug. 23-27; DuQuoin, Ill., Aug. 30-Sept. 3; Indianapolis, Sept. 6-10; Reading, Penn., Sept. 14-17; Wolverine Raceway, Sept. 18-20; Delaware, O., Sept. 20-24; Lexington, Ky., Sept. 29-Oct. 3; Wolverine Raceway, Oct. 11-15; Yonkers Raceway, Oct. 18-20; Western Harness Racing Ass'n. (Hollywood Park), Nov. 8-20.

All records were broken for 200 miles in 1953 with the unprecedented number of 70, which far eclipses the previous record of 49 for a single season set in 1952. Hollywood Park with its late meeting which extended to the 5th of December, helped add to the record. One pacing mare, Tassel Hanover, was tops with no less than six 200 miles to her credit. This mare which Harry Pownall trained so carefully into a perfect free-legged, bootless racing champion, really came into her own this year. Next in number to her is the pacer Hi-Lo's Forbes 1.58. His first mile better than 200 was at Roosevelt Raceway where he won in 1:58 3/5 and ran up a total of five in 2:00 or better. Three of his miles were paced over the three-quarter mile oval at Vernon, N.Y., time, 1:58, 1:59, 1:59. But the most remarkable 200 miles ever paced were the two-year-old performances of Adios Boy and Adios Betty, both by Adios, that took time records of 1:58 3/5 and 1:58 4/5 respectively.

The honor of siring 210 two-year-old trotters is equally divided between Bomis Away 2:04 1/2 and Worthy Boy 3, 2:02 1/2, each with four. Bill Gallon 3, 1:59 1/2, Hoot Mon 3, 2:00 and Rodney 1:57 2/5 each have sired three. Honors for pacing sires of 210 two-year-olds in 1953 shows Adios 1:57 1/2 away out in front with 16. Next in order is Nibbles Hanover 1:56 3/4 with 11. Ensign Hanover 1:59 4/5, Goosey Bay 3, 2:00 2/5, Hal Dale 2:02 1/4, Knight Dream 3, 1:59 and Poplar Bird 1:59 3/5 have each sired six. These are followed by King's Counsel 1:58 and The Widower 1:59 1/2 with five each.

Fifty-six years ago a 200 mile was thought an impossibility but at Readville, Mass., mile track, which was then one of the fastest in the United States, on Aug. 28, 1897, the pacing stallion Star Pointer, driven by Dave McClary, urred the trick, being timed in 1:59 1/4. The second greatest performance was the trotting of a mile in 2:00 and it was also at Readville that the trick was turned in August, 1903 when the Callonian, Lou Dillon, went against time to lower the world's record set in 1901 by the trotting stallion Cresceus 2:02 1/4. Lou Dillon stepped a seasonal lead and the time was 2:00 1/4. Later that fall at Memphis, Tenn., she reduced her record to 1:58 1/2

Sol Camp Shaffer, Cal., has the honor of having the largest stable of trotters and pacers in the world. The total is 114 and this season he paid out \$111,140 at auctions for yearlings. Next to him is Octave Blake, president of the Grand Circuit. Horses added to his stable the past fall cost him \$74,600, and Leonard J. Buck of Far Hills, N. J., whose adviser is Tommy Murphy, is third on the list with \$72,500 for four yearlings and his American Way at \$35,000 was the highest priced yearling sold at Lexington this fall. The Gray Bros., Percy and Jerome, of East Providence, R. I., and Dr. A. Shadman of Walpole, Mass., each spent \$22,000 for yearlings. The Gray Bros. have been interested in trotters and pacers all their lives. It runs in the family. Their father was racing horses back in the 1890's and well into the 20th century. The writer made a trade with him at the Old Glory Sale, New York, November, 1912, receiving in exchange for a trotter that had been trained by Lon MacDonald, the little mare afterwards known as The Rexall Girl. Gray Bros. have been very successful in their racing ventures and all their string is trained by Franklin Safford, who years ago used to tip the scales at between 250 and 260 pounds, but has now shed considerable weight and this season gave 210 records to several two-year-olds.

On the last day of racing at Hollywood Park, California, December 5th, Aristocratic Boy, that cost Sol Camp \$26,000 as a yearling in 1952, was trained as a trotter but failed to make the grade, took a mark of 2:07 for Joe O'Brien in winning from an aged field of pacers. Practically all the stables that raced at Hollywood Park are now quartered at the mile track at Del Mar for the winter season and in the mail last evening we had a Christmas card from Claude O'Brien stating they are very comfortable there.

Octave Blake, president of the Grand Circuit, has had exceptional success with his stable this season. His two-year-old trotter Newport Dream, took a record of 2:01 3/5 and an all time record for money winning two-year-olds of \$95,000. His Newport Chief also took a record of 1:59 3/5 at Hollywood Park, driven by Joe O'Brien, and won one of the top stakes there. Hollywood Park finished up with 13, 200 miles, the most ever registered at an extended pari-mutuel meeting.

New 200 drivers for the year include Jimmy Wingfield, Chief Strong and Hillsdale, Donald Hall (Scottish Chief, Nancy Song and Mr. Dean), Clair McMillan (Chucky Scott), Harry Short (March Storm), Jean Sears (Hi-Lo's Brother), Harry Burright (Rilma's Widower), Howard Camden (Adios Boy), McKinley Kirk (Pleasant Surprise), Don Stokes (Flying Song).

Volomite's standard list now has a total of 586 and it is expected that he will pass the 600 mark eventually. However, he is not expected to approach his grandsire, Peter the Great's record of 661.

We thought that the era of the Morgan trotter was over and that there were none of them racing but we were wrong. Jim Dandy Gift by Montbill, a registered

Continued on page 7

LITTLE SPORT



First Skate At New Rink In Crapaud

The first skate in the newly constructed rink at Crapaud took place last evening when about 200 skaters arrived and enjoyed a full evening of skating. No admission was charged as the whole program was largely a spontaneous one by eager skating enthusiasts who arrived at the rink prepared and in the hope the rink would be operating. Mr. Robert Dawson, president of the rink company said last evening that the installation of the sound system would be completed before tonight and, depending on weather conditions and the condition of the ice, it is expected that the official opening would be held on Monday evening when government officials and others would be present to take part in the opening ceremonies.

Hopes To Sign Johnny Mize As Batting Coach

RICHMOND, Va., (AP)—Harry Seibold, Richmond industrialist who hopes to bring International League baseball to Richmond, said Thursday he is trying to sign Johnny Mize as a spring training batting coach. Seibold and Mize talked by telephone Thursday and will get together in a conference next Tuesday. Originally, Seibold wanted to sign Mize as a full-time player-coach. However, Mize has an option with the Cardinals which will prevent full-season duty with the Richmond club. "If arrangements are worked out," Seibold said, "Mize will coach our batters."

Mixed Curling

Scratch matches in the mixed curling competition at the Charlottetown Curling will be held tonight at seven o'clock and eight-thirty.

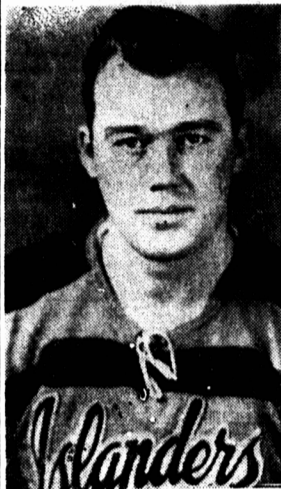
York Rifle Club Shoot

Following are the scores of the York Rifle Shoot on Wednesday, December 23:

H. T. Vesey	97
Irene Hardy	94
Myron Ling	94
Raymond Vesey	94
W. L. Crockett	94
Leigh Vesey	93
Arthur Brown	93
Jack Andrews	92
Norman Brown	92
Catherine Wood	92
Herman Buell	92
Cecil Watts	92
Dewar Swan	92
Isabel Swan	91
Peter Proude	91
Albert Court	90
George Andrews	90
Howard Watts	89
Lloyd Vesey	87
Christine Proude	86
Alan Swan	86
Mark Johnson	86
Annie Buell	86
Vivian Allen	86
George Proude	82
Carol Hardy	80
Stuart Vesey	80
Douglas Moore	80
Joyce Ling	80
Louis Court	80
Elmer Brown	80
Betty Andrews	80
Laken Lewis	80
Harry Lewis	80
Bonnell Ling	80
Frank Vesey	80
Robert Cooper	80
Harold Taylor	80
Earl Ling	80
Muriel MacDonald	80
Alan Brown	80
Merrill MacDonald	80
Frankie Lewis	80
A. J. Cluney	80

The library of the British Museum in London has more than 46 is crossed in one span by a 3,770-miles of book shelves.

Strong Defence-Unit



Defencemen Gus Gustavson (left) and Don MacLaughlin (right) have been carrying much of the Islanders' defensive burden this season.

Boston Bruins Score 4-1 Win Over Chicago

BOSTON, (AP)—Defenceman Hal Laycoe set up the winning goal and then doubly insured matters by scoring himself as Boston Bruins defeated Chicago's last-place Black Hawks 4-1 Friday night in a National Hockey League game. Two of the Boston counters were made while both teams played shorthanded.

SUMMARY

First Period

1—Boston, Klukay (Schmidt)	3:06
2—Chicago, Zeidel	

Second Period

3—Boston, Gardner (Laycoe)	18:40
Penalties: Dewsbury 4:34, Martin 12:18, Hucul 16:52, Armstrong 16:53.	

Third Period

3—Boston, Laycoe (Mackell, Toppazzini)	9:30
4—Boston, Schmidt	14:35
Penalties: Armstrong major and Gee two—one major 12:08.	

Geoffrion And Murphy Remain Under Suspension

MONTREAL, (CP)—The National Hockey League announced Friday night that Bernie Geoffrion of Montreal and Ron Murphy of New York will remain suspended pending outcome of the "official inquiry" into events resulting in match penalties to both players during a New York game Dec. 20. A decision is not expected before next week. The inquiry began Friday. "It is not anticipated that the inquiry will be completed before Saturday night's game at Montreal between the Canadiens and the Rangers and the penalized players will stand suspended indefinitely pending the final disposition of their cases by NHL President Clarence Campbell." Murphy still is in hospital as a result of head injuries allegedly inflicted by a stick-wielding Boston player in the New York game. Geoffrion claims Murphy had struck him first.

Former Major League Baseball Player Dies

LAWRENCE, Mass., (AP)—Patrick J. (Patsy) Donovan, 88, who spent 17 seasons in major league baseball as an outfielder and manager and piloted five teams, died at his home Friday after a long illness. In after years Donovan often claimed he was instrumental in bringing Babe Ruth to the Boston Red Sox in 1914 through his acquaintance with one of the Catholic Xaverian brothers who coached Ruth at a Baltimore orphan's home. Donovan played in 1,806 major league games with Boston Red Sox, Brooklyn, Washington, St. Louis Nationals and Pittsburgh Pirates. He made 2,263 hits, 1,326 runs and in nine of his 17 seasons was a .300 hitter for a lifetime batting average of .313.



HUNTERS' CORNER

A white Christmas is in prospect for 1953 but is not a sure bet as I type this Corner. The weather has been freaky lately. It takes a coating of pure white snow to put the finishing touches on the Christmas season.

When I was a lad on the farm it didn't really matter. If it was a green Christmas I shouldered the old double and left home, as the sun peeped over the horizon, in quest of rabbits. Some times I hunted in Alex's swamp and sometimes back by Paddy White's. 'Pat' White as brother Art called him. It didn't make much difference where I went there were rabbits galore if one could kick them out of the bushes. I always timed myself to arrive home in time to sit in to the roast goose and plum pudding with my appetite whetted to a razor edge.

If there was snow on the ground I took a walk in the woods just the same. I was always interested in where the rabbits had 'yarded', where the foxes made their rounds, the brush piles where the white weasels (ermine) had their hideouts or mink trails along the brook. Still I enjoy walks in the winter woods and swamps. Nature's black board furnishes interesting reading at times and one has an opportunity to assess the winter population of Huns, grouse and pheasants as well as the four footed creatures.

When I was overseas, Christmas filled me with an overwhelming longing for home. October was a month that brought vivid memories of the old familiar lakes, marshes and swamps especially if there happened to be game in the vicinity. My mind still retains pictures of the hooded Prussian crows on Salisbury Plains or plump English rabbits hopping for the shelter of thorny copes at West Down North; spidery skeins of ducks over the Scarpe marshes, a covey of Huns amid the barbed wire entanglements at Courcellette (The Somme) or covey after covey winging down a valley in the Picardy Plains when the guns up beyond Albert thundered their evening crescendo of death.

Christmas At The Forum

The Charlottetown Forum was in festive dress for yesterday's skating periods. During the afternoon skate the kiddies were given a treat, each receiving a bag of candy. Both afternoon and evening Christmas music was a feature. The decorations included Christmas trees, and festive lights.

Well Known N. S. Curler Dies

HALIFAX, (CP)—Robert G. Callender, 53, one of Nova Scotia's best known curlers, died here Tuesday after a brief illness. Mr. Callender was born at Kouchibouguac, near Richibucto, N. B., and worked in banks in the Maritimes and at the dockyards here before becoming president of Clive's Sporting Goods Ltd., after the war. He was an exceptional athlete and outdoorsman. In 1948 his rink won the Nova Scotia curling championship. He was an organizer of little league baseball in Halifax and a member of the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron. He is survived by his widow. Funeral services will be held here at 2 p. m. Thursday, with interment in Fairview Cemetery.

New Boxing Glove For N.Y.

NEW YORK, (AP)—A new boxing glove with a shorter thumb, and additional padding on the side of the fist will become mandatory in New York state bouts on New Year's Day. Bob Christenberry, chairman of the New York state athletic commission, said the commission feels the new gloves will cut down on thumbing and cause fewer cuts. The additional padding does not increase the weight of the glove, which remains eight ounces, but it increases the punching area from 16 square inches to 23 square inches. The padding decreases the space between thumb and fist.

Marciano Back From Tour To Japan

NEW YORK, (AP)—Heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano and manager Al Weill returned Thursday from an exhibition and "goodwill tour" which extended as far as the Philippines and Japan.

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Pitching Coach For Dodgers Smart Move

NEW YORK (AP)—The first official move made by Walter Alston indicates that the new manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers is every bit as smart as they said he was when they brought him out of the minor league jobs in the business. Alston, looking around at the unbroken ranks of ex-infielders who comprised the Dodgers' coaching staff, asked his bosses to go out and find him the best pitching coach they could lay hands on, and hang the expense. They found Ted Lyons unemployed momentarily, and by signing the former White Sox great they might well have made a down payment on a world championship.

If the Brooklyn team of the last few seasons had had one noteworthy weakness it was the absence of an expert hand of pitchers among Charlie Dressen's staff. Dressen was a former infielder, as were Billy Herman, Cookie Lavagetto and Jake Pitzner.

One of the differences of opinion between Dressen and his employers was said to have been Chuck's insistence upon being his own pitching coach. The Dodger officials did not consider Dressen especially gifted in handling his throwers, the young ones in particular.

Well Known Harness Race Trainer Dies

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R. I. (AP)—Fenner Hawkins, 72, harness racing trainer and developer of many outstanding trotters and pacers, died Thursday at Cedar Crest Farm. He was former trainer and manager of the Newport Stock Farm, Newport, R.I., and while there developed such trotters as Axomite, second in the 1945 Hambletonian and sire of the 1953 winner, Newport Dream. He resigned as Newport Stock Farm manager in 1949 to become manager of the Walnut Hill Stud Farm, Lexington, Ky. He returned to Rhode Island in 1952 to manage Cedar Crest Farm.

days of the old timers. Coveys of grouse would roar up from the alder swales or second growth hardwood cut-overs; the thrilling whistle of woodcock wings greeted the hunter on sunny second-growth hardwood slopes, or along alder bordered brooks but... there was no ringing crow of an old cook pheasant greeting the dawn or the startling clatter and rattle of wings as a Hun covey broke from cover. There are some who prefer the old days but the new crop of hunters, who have out their hunting teeth on those alien birds from across the water, wouldn't exchange present conditions for the best of the old days had to offer. Maybe there is a reason... they never experienced the joys of what the old days had to offer.

Soccer Results

LONDON, (AP)—Results of soccer games played Friday in the United Kingdom:
 English League
 Division I
 Burnley 2, Preston NE 1
 Charlton A 1, Bolton W 0
 Manchester U 5, Sheffield W 2
 Middlesbrough 2, Newcastle U 3
 Sheffield U 2, Manchester C 2
 Sunderland 1, Huddersfield T 1
 Tottenham H 1, Portsmouth 1
 W Bromwich 5, Liverpool 2.
 Division II
 Birmingham C 3, Notts C 0
 Blackburn R 2, Doncaster R 0
 Bury 4, Derby C 0
 Everton 3, Plymouth A 1
 Fulham 3, Plymouth A 1
 Leicester C 4, Rotherham U 1
 Notts F 5, Leeds U 2
 West Ham U 1, Luton T 0.
 Division III Southern
 Aldershot 1, Exeter C 2
 Burnmouth 3, Southampton 1
 Colchester U 5, Queens P R 0
 Coventry C 1, Ipswich T 3
 Crystal P 1, Norwich C 0
 Gillingham 2, Millwall C 0
 Newport C 3, Bristol C 2
 Northampton 2, Leyton C 0
 Reading 2, Torquay U 4
 Swindon T 2, Shrewsbury T 1
 Walsall 3, Brighton 1
 Watford 2, Southend U 2.
 Division III Northern
 Barrow 1, Wrexham 0
 Gateshead 3, Carlisle U 2
 Grimsby T 1, Tranmere R 0
 Halifax T 2, Accrington S 0
 Mansfield T 6, Crewe Alex 0
 Port Vale 1, Chester 0
 Rochdale 3, Bradford C 2
 Southport U 1, Darlington 1
 Southport 1, Bradford 0
 Stockport 6, Chesterfield 1
 Workington 0, Hartlepool U 4
 York C 0, Barnsley 1.

Forum Dates

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 DEC. 22 to 26
 SATURDAY—
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