

Back Stretch

P. Clegg (Moreside), owned by Kelly & McPhee; Ginger Reynolds (Nicholson) 2. The trotter Tommy Shanter driven by Lem Neill, finished first but was set back for interference. His mile was much admired and showed him as very promising. The 3rd race was won by the 3-year-old pacer Jollity George (Moreside), owned by James O'Brien, Elmsdale; Hoosier Doctor (Shaw) 2. Time 2:20—a new record. In the 5th and 8th races Impact (O'Meara) rang up a surprise by winning both in close finishes from Keppoch Playgirl (Willis). Time 2:10 3/5, 2:11 4/5. In the 6th and 9th races My Darling (O'Meara) was 1-4; Johnnie Kalmuck 2. Time: 2:11 2/5, 2:11 3/5. My Darling is owned by Senator George Barbour and Johnnie Kalmuck is owned and was driven by Walter Kelly. Len O'Meara has his best night of the season, winning five firsts, one third and one fourth.

Another visitor we always look forward to seeing is George R. MacDonald of Boston who is one of the best authorities on harness racing that we know of and frequently supplies us with information for this column. And from far away Winchester, Kentucky, we have Mr. Paul Letton, who with Mrs. Letton is visiting here for the first time and brings greetings from friends in Kentucky including Dr. George Bishop, to us.

A horseman friend has called our attention to the fact that the three dash winners of the Jollity Stake raced at Truro, Aug. 3rd were Jimmy Budlong (R. LeBoeuf), owned by J. C. Underhill, Campbellton, N. B.; Laurel Henley (MacLeod), owned by Donald Grace, Antigonish, N. S.; and Doctor F. C., owned and driven by Ralph McFadyen, Hunter River, P. E. I. A rather unusual happening, as the three provinces shared in the major part of \$4,000 of the \$5,000 Stake. In the final dash, as our readers know, these three horses starting Doctor F. C. was the winner. We may say that Ralph's hundreds of friends have been showering him with congratulations ever since and they realize that he performed a most unusual feat in that he had raced for the largest purse ever put up in the Maritime Provinces, and drove his own 3-year-old to a winner.

The Guardian carried an excellent write-up of Elmer Ferguson in its sports column this week. In addition to the many cuttings we have received, we find that he is very interested in harness racing and while here made inquiries regarding Joe O'Brien, whom he considers one of the great drivers of this era. Elmer was born in Charlotteville some 70 years ago and his family moved to Moncton when he was quite young. It was there that he developed his athletic abilities over the Moncton quarter mile athletic grounds track where so many other great Maritime athletes trained. He was a ten-second man and competed with some of the best in that era of great sprinters. Now he is more popular to his readers in Montreal and it is fortunate for the tracks there that he is taking an interest in it. With Montreal's over a million population including its environs, and the excellent tracks at Richelieu and Blue Bonnets and the horses available, harness racing should grow by leaps and bounds. We hope Elmer will visit us more extended visit the next time he comes to our province.

Wednesday night's race program at Summerside drew the largest attendance this season, also the briskest speculation and big payoffs. The Free For All course was the great attraction and a man who knows how to time told us that Bay State Pat paced the last half of his first dash of the Free For All in one minute or better. Records were lowered too when Captain Morgan in winning the first dash in the AA Pace for owner-driver Kennedy stepped in 2:13, heading the Cape Breton horses Grey Eagle (MacDonald) and Shining Hour (Lewis). In the second dash of this event Shining Hour won with Grey Eagle 2, Captain Morgan 3. Time, 2:15. Shining Hour is owned by Mrs. Ralph Baggs of New York. The DD Trot was another good event with a nice field. The Cape Breton owned trotter Lilly Bell won with Joe MacDonald driving, won both dashes with Kerry Frisco 2. Time, 2:17 3/5, 2:16—a new record. In the C Trot and Pace Lusty's Lass, owned by Stewart Matthews and driven by Roach MacGregor was 1-2; Judge Morris, owned by Angus Morrison and driven by Joe MacDonald, 4-1; Sir Francis Drake (Callbeck) 2-3. Time, 2:17 3/5, 2:17 3/5—a new record for Lusty's Lass. Judge Morris has a record of 2:09 2/5 trotting but did not race last season.

And now we come to the Free For All, both dashes of which were won by Bay State Pat with fast last halves. Richard, that was second both trips to Pat, was driven by Don Ratchford and is Sydney owned. He is a seven-year-old black gelding by True Chief. Last season he made 25 starts, was five times first, three times second and four times third and paced the Foxboro track to a win in 2:06 1/5. His earnings for 1954 total 7,464. Sir Joseph (Llewellyn) was 2-4; three other starters. Time, 2:16. A happy feature of the above races was the presentation by Mrs. Sheen, Sr. of a very beautiful trophy donated by Sheen and McNis to driver Joe MacDonald. Conditions for this trophy were that it was to be given to the driver of the horse breaking the track record of 2:06, or if the record was not broken it was to be given to the driver scoring the most points in the two nights' racing—Monday and Wednesday—and Joe MacDonald was that driver.

At Sydney Raceway last Monday night three horses registered double wins and one of them lowered his mark—Silver Mayo, owned by Charlie Boutiller and driven by Mike Chaisson capturing the 1st and 4th dashes of the classified trot in 2:21, 2:19 3/5. Vanguard, owned and driven by Duncan MacDonald, Sydney, won races 3 and 7 with Connolly 2-2, best time 2:14 3/5. In races 3 and 8 Prairie Pete, owned and driven by Roddie Andrews, Port Morien, was 1-4; Cobblestone, owned and driven by Archie Shore, Glace Bay, 3-1. Time, 2:18, 2:15 3/5.

And here's a letter from W. P. Edwards, Fredericton, N. B.:— "Just returned from Fogo, saw some great racing. My main reason for going was to see the match race between Adios Harry and Adios Boy last Saturday night for a purse of \$7,500. It was a dandy. They raced neck and neck for part of the race

with Adios Harry finally winning out in 2:02 1/5, which is fast time record being 2:01 4/5. Billy Hood's horse Victory Mac with Billy driving, also won a good race the same night in 2:08. Joe MacDonald from Sydney bought five head at Foxboro and shipped them down to race in the Maritimes. Margy Frisco, formerly owned by J. H. DeWitt, was the favorite in her class but out of the money. The broadcast of this match was heard by a lot of our harness horse fans including Harry Day, who gave the writer particulars of it, also by Jack Mulligan. It was one reason for the tremendous turnout that night.

At Fredericton last Monday night the 1st and 5th dashes were won by Diane Carroll (N. Lincoln), owned by Newcastle Stable, Newcastle, N. B., time, 2:22 4/5. The 2nd and 6th dashes were won by Hope Spencer, owned by Newcastle Stable and driven by Ned Lindon, best time 2:19 2/5. In the 3rd and 7th dashes Flaxey Pointer, owned and driven by Herb Chase, Fredericton, was 1-2. Swift Trick (Devlin), owned by Lloyd McKinney, Gagetown, 5-1. Time, 2:17 1/5, 2:13 3/5. In the 4th and 8th dashes Home Sirech Ade, owned by A. L. Sadler, Calais, Me., and driven by Teddy Weir, was 1-5; Robert Bruce, owned by Newcastle Stable and driven by Ned Lindon, was 4-1, time 2:14 3/5, 2:15 2/5. Ned Lindon was warmly congratulated by his many friends on winning five out of the eight dashes raced.



DISTAFF SHARPSHOOTER

OTTAWA—Lieut. Mary MacLennan, army medical corps officer from Alexandria, P.E.I., tied Maj. Gerald E. Keeler, Picton, Ont., for first place with 99 points out of a possible 100 in the Banker's Match of the 73rd annual Dominion of Canada Rifle Association prize shoot. (CP PHOTO)

Old Home Week, one of Canada's most popular racing and amusement weeks, opens next Monday at the Charlottetown Driving Park with the harness racing events—over 200. They come from all parts of the Maritimes and from the State of Maine and in addition five new ones brought in early this week

from Foxboro. The management have arranged for three afternoons racing and six nights and it is possible they may have to have an extra afternoon of racing. The big new Coliseum, costing in the vicinity of \$150,000, will be utilized for the purpose of exhibiting live stock and for entertainment purposes for which high-class vaudeville acts are being brought here. It will be a full week of fun and excitement for everybody and expectations are that all attendance records will be smashed.

A rather sad happening occurred at Moncton at last Wednesday night's races when Lady Be Sure, owned by C. J. Ryan of Springhill, died of a broken neck caused by a fall in the second

Hunter's Corner

sunsets have vanished and have been replaced by a stormy after-math as Old Sol sinks to rest that causes the duck hunters pulse to skip a beat and visualize spidery skeins of ducks etched against a vanishing skyline ... and night takes over.

Autumn has its compensations for those who do not hunt but are chiefly concerned with holiday-making and outdoor lunches. Indian summer days are a joy to behold when the autumn haze shimmers over the alder swales and woodland glades the sun gives out a short, soothing heat. The number of the male sex are legion to whom a bevy of bathing beauties, disporting themselves in sun-dimpled blue water against a background of towering white sand dunes, supply more zest and fill them with the joy of living better than the best tonic ever dispensed by a Doctor ... but for my money give me October.

I like 'em all. I enjoy walks in the winter woods when the frost crystallized snow whisps under ones moccasins and a bright sun transforms the spruce swamps into a veritable fairyland. The cheery Chicadees furnish elfin music as they flutter amid the trees seeking tit-bits (sleeping insects and larvae) from dead branches and bark crevices. Blue-jays drifting on silent wings across dark green glades give a touch of colour to the winter scene and even a pair of ravens, croaking, ebony rascals scaling on motionless wings against a blue sky, are an essential part of Nature's setting.

Even March days have an attraction. The sound of running water; the clear caw caw of the crow telling the world that he has arrived back and the tramped bass notes of the first V of willow geese to arrive from the south are forerunners of better days to come. I have no kick over the summer months. The first fresh vegetables; strawberries and cream ... the sleepy drone of Harvest beetles

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in the heat and the soothing caress. There are other shoots connected of cool salt water on ones body, with October. Covers of brown And ... I may as well admit ... Huns hurtling into the blue from when there are sights worth seeing an alder swale, each one squealing believe in looking while the looking in a high pitched treble and ing is good. Summer is the season each one on its own ... a big of cottages and camping out ... cock pheasant—a stream lined jet on wings—airborne and bent on the black wings of night ... the scap of Wilson's snipe zig zagging from lazy days; soft nights and the alders ... russet brown Wood-heavy splash of feeding trout ... cock, wings whistling a thrilling tune, rising from hardwood cut overs ... the twitt twitt of Ruf fed grouse along the edge of a sun-dappled wood road. All have their special part to play in making October the month it is. I sit to sit in the blind and drink the heat throb of all it is a frost joys of anticipation the full. I like to sit with my shooting partner in the music of wildgeese throbbing and listen to the little night noises in the distance ... white breasts gleaming, black feet extended for the landing ... the soft cadences of wind through wing feathers as they hover over the stool. The whisper of wing beats in the black dotting the stubble is merely anti-curtain o'erhead ... the thin-climax.

To my way of thinking October has a certain something that other months lack. The opening of the duck season is her first attraction, believe in having an hour or so to sit in the blind and drink the joys of anticipation the full. I like to sit with my shooting partner and listen to the little night noises in the distance ... white breasts gleaming, black feet extended for the landing ... the soft cadences of wind through wing feathers as they hover over the stool. The whisper of wing beats in the black dotting the stubble is merely anti-curtain o'erhead ... the thin-climax.

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