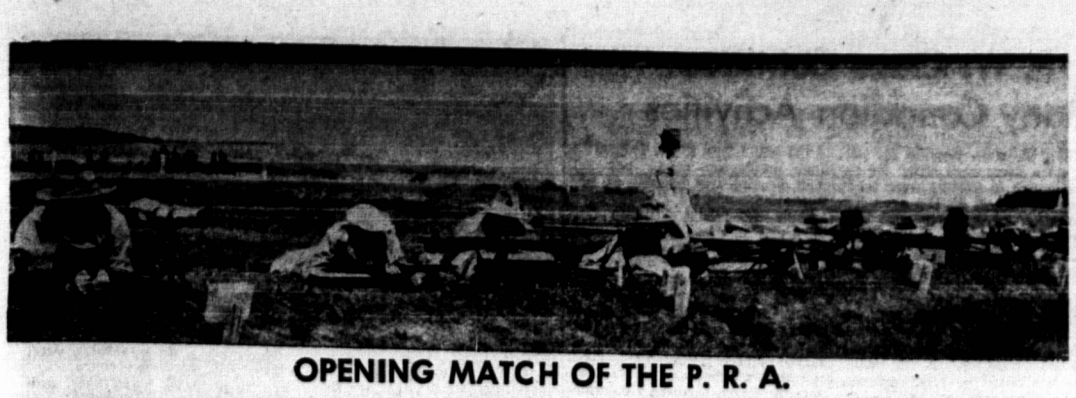

OPENING MATCH OF THE P. R. A.

Range Officer Stewart Moore is seen looking over some of the competitors in the opening match of the P.R.A. shoot at Squaw Point on Thursday.

HUNTER'S CORNER

Fought The War To Get Back To Some Real Shooting

"Old soldiers never die...they simply fade away" a saying common during the 1st Great War is true in a certain sense — but either way amounts to the same thing in the end. On the night of June 30th I received a telegram notifying me that B.R. (Ben) Dunn, an old war buddy and fellow duck hunter, had passed away. I hadn't seen him for thirty odd years — not since we crossed guns in a duck shooting contest on De Vebbers marsh, Gagetown, N.B. The telegram was from his brother Frank and as I read it a great sadness settled upon me and memories long since stored away came flooding back in a wave that carried me back to a tiny village in Flanders — to quote Longfellow: "Once in an ancient village whose name I no longer remember"...it was there on March 10th, 1915, B.R. and I first met.

Between forty and fifty of us were squatting or lying down in a barn loft half filled with rye straw. It was afternoon and rain rattled on the tile roof and the guns beyond Sailly Sur Lys rumbled ominiously. The battle of Neuve Chappelle, our first action of the war, was underway.

SHERWOOD FORESTERS

The night before hundreds of us had lined a cobbled road and watched the Kings Own Rifles march toward the front. The Fire and Drum Band of the Foresters was playing: "Hold your hand out naughty boy," a song familier during the first years of the war. I remember the tears running down the cheeks of some old French women standing near and had to blink to keep back my own. Most of them were smallish men striding toward the front with their Cockney voices humming "Last night in the pale moonlight I saw yer, I saw yer, with a nice girl by your side you were strolling full of joy and you told me that you never loved a girl before, hold your hand out naughty boy."

I never laid eyes on the Sherwood Foresters again but I do know they were cut to pieces by German machine guns at daybreak next morning. This is the prelude to meeting B.R. Dunn. We were all pretty quiet. We knew that things were not going well up front and that night as soon as it got dark we were to rush reinforcements up to the Lines. The G. S. (General Service) waggons were lined up in readiness. It was a wild, fast ride with three teams of horses hitched to each wagon. I remember the Infantry vowing they'd never drive with us again, they'd rather take chances on foot. I didn't blame them too much as it was no joke huddled in a bouncing waggon hitched to six horses who were travelling wide open.

FIRST ACTION

That night we were to take part in our first action and each was wrapped in his own thoughts and the silence was almost oppressive. To get my mind off the war I thought of duck hunting back home and of the old Home Lake. I made a remark that started the pot boiling: "This would be a good day to hunt ducks" Someone inquired. "Are you a duck hunter" You've said it. I'm one of the best" was my reply.

I really said it to relieve the tension but I got more than I bargained for. A slimmish, wiry chap about my own height lying at the opposite end of the loft came to his feet in one supple movement; hit the back of his forage cap with the palm of his hand and pushed the peak over his forehead, stuck one foot out in front with the toe of his boot straight up and remarked: "Listen chum. I don't know who you are or where you are from but I shot more ducks then you ever saw." I told him who I was and where I was from and then the argument started. Each tried to outdo the other relating hunting feats and the war and rumbling guns were forgotton.

DUCK TALK

We bunked together and were generally inseperable. We could talk for hours about duck hunting. It was our escape from the grim reality of the present as we re-lived our back home expereinces of the past and in our minds were transported far from war and its death and destruction. For B.R. it meant tall grass swaying on De Vebbers marsh — long skeins of black ducks above the rippling rice beds of Grand Lake — the call of the bull moose on Bull Pasture Plains above upper Timber Lake — dawning at the mouth of the Jemseg, the whistle of wings and the white breasts of whistlers gleaming in the fog.

For me it was the Old Home Lake — lily pads dimpling in the sun — long skeins of black ducks dipping in over the spruce from Irving's Bar or Wisners!...the cry of wildgeese in the night — ruffed grouse by the Red Gate — Lake Verde with Ring-necked ducks adding to its placid beauty... black ducks dotting the tiny Islands on Gil's Pond — the white sand shore of Keefe's Lake — the flute like whistle of yellow legs and flights of black ducks dropping into its reedy coves. Last but not least was memories of brother Art and myself tending our trapline in the dawning or fetching home strings of firm, tasty brook trout in the evening dusk.

A DRAW

After war's end Ben and I had our duck shooting contest on De Vebbers Marsh at Gagetown with his brother Frank and Abner Belyea, also of Gagetown and an old war buddy, as referees. Each of us shot each other into the ground and the contest was declared a draw. Its the memory of pals like those that live long after war and its terrors are forgotten. I remember B.R. after a harrowing ride through Hell Fire Corner at Ypres with ammunition for the guns, flicking chunks of bloddy horse flesh off his forage cap and remarking: "Heinie can't keep old B.R. down. " Jenks "I'll trim you shooting ducks yet". Thats the spirit that won the war.

Back Stretch

(Continued from page 6)

times 2.14 and 2.12 2-5 — a new record. The four-year-old filly, Crystal Maid, owned by Eric Webby, Dartmouth, N. S., and driven by G. Turner, won races 2 and 6 from a fast field; her time was 2.14 4-5 and 2.12 4-5, the former more than two seconds better than her previous mark.

The concluding meet of the Summerside Lobster Carnival was featured by splendid racing at the speedway and a bumper attendance. In the D Pace, George Sobey drove Frank H. Cavallero to a win; he is owned by Frank H. Callbeck. The many friends of Herbert Parsons, Breadalbane, were delighted to see his trotter, Tommy Shanter, win the first dash in the B trot for driver Neil and dead-heat with Miss Russell (W. Simmons) in the remaining dash. The A Pace was split up, with Lady Clegg, owned by J. E. Turner and driven by E. Jay, being 1-4, Propane (C. Kenny) 4-1, times 2.15 and 2.14 1-5—a new record for Propane.

We have received a copy of the racing sheets of the Summerside Raceway from Claude Harkness, clerk of the course, and we were greatly pleased to see that in the four race meets, one on July 1st, and the three on Lobster Carnival week, a total of $7,400 was paid out for the 18 events, quite a tidy sum of money. And we were particularly glad that the races were so well spoken of, and the final night drew a bumper crowd of over 2,000. The fastest mile trotted during the meet was by Baby Train, owned by C. C. Pratt, St Peter's, and driven by J. Arsenault. Time 2.17. The fastest mile paced was 2.09 1-5, by Ann's Dream, owned and driven by George Callbeck, Summerside.

RECOVERED

We are glad to notice that on Wednesday night at Sackville Downs, in the first race, Mighty Deb was driven to a win by Eric Moreside, which means that Eric has recovered from his recent injuries. Avalon Gal (J. MacGregor) was 2, time 2.15 4-5. In race 4, with the same field, Grey Eagle (Jones) 1, Lela Clegg (Ratchford) 2, Mighty Deb (Moreside) 3, time 2.15 2-5. In the 7th race, the junior free-for-all Frenchman (Given) 1, Theo A. Nick (O'Brien) 2, Direct Mite (Moreside) 3, time 2.12 1-5. Frenchman is owned by James Given, Halifax. The fastest mile of the night was in race 6, the AA Pace, Mr. Rock (S. Walker) 1, South Dakota (Campbell) 2, David Caudle (O'Meara) 3, time 2.12. The winner is owned by Charles J. Walker, Lower Sackville.

At Truro on Wednesday night, Impact (Pinkney) was first in race 1 and 4; Brenda Grattan (Conroy) 2-3; Laurel Henley (MacLeod) 4-2, time 2.12 and 2.11-2-5. The winner is owned by Mrs. Emma Mustacalis. Other winners were, Race 5, Naughty Girl (Harrison) 1, Lucky Bet (Daniels) 2, Tiny Budlong (Shea) 3, time 2.19-3-5; winning owner LeBlanc and Crossman, Truro. Race 6, Royal Bank (MacLeod) 1, Allspice (Wisener) 2, time 2.15 4-5; winning owner, Frank Stanfield, Truro. Everyone will be glad to notice that Mr. Stanfield, one of the owners of Stanfields, Ltd., has become interested in race horses. Race 7, Real Fingo (Pinkney) 1, Lady Abner (D. Pinkney) 2, time 2.16 4-5; the winner is owned by Mrs. Emma Mustacalis, Truro, whose horses were formerly raced with similar success by Len O'Meara. Friends of that tough little mare, Lady Abner, will see that she is still racing up front.

At Moncton on Wednesday night, the first dash was won by Model Budlong in 2.19, and he also won the 4th wash from the same field in 2.18 3-5. The 2nd and 6th dashes were won by John Frederick, owned by A. J. Allain, Moncton, and driven by Joe Goguen, best time 2.15 1-5. Don Truax (G. Gaudet) was 2-2. The 3rd and 7th dashes, Lakeside Abb. Mite (Ed Goguen) was 1-3, Frankie Budlong (Joe Goguen) was 1-1, Becky Smith 2-2, times 2.12 2-5 and 2.16 3-5. Track was heavy.

WANT IMPROVEMENTS

There has been a big "row" between leading horsemen and the management of Yonkers Raceway, New York, and many of the top stables moved out and went to Foxboro because their demands were not complied with. Their claim is made by the Standardbred Owners Association, which means the owners of the fastest trotters and pacers racing at Yonkers. Among the drivers are Joe O'Brien, Billy Haughton, Johnny Simpson, and others of nearly the same stature.

Billy Haughton has expressed himself in the following: "Sure, the purses are a major factor. But before we ever race there again, they've got to fix up the track and the stable accommodations. The horsemen take their lives in their hands every time they race at Yonkers the track is so bad. Furthermore, the stables are bad, and there are no accommodations for grooms. There is no place for the grooms to sleep or to eat," states Haughton.

"Roosevelt Raceway just spent $19,000,000 to renovate their plant; one of their improvements is a subsidized restaurant on the grounds for the grooms." There is no reason, Haughton insists, why Yonkers cannot meet the demands of the Standardbred Owners Asso. "Last year Yonkers made a net profit of $900,000 and there is no reason why they can't give 45 percent of their net on each night's pari-mutuel handle, Belmont Park gives the runners 48 percent."

FARM SOLD

One of the most important transactions in harness racing in years was the sale last week of the 350-acre Gainsway Farm, Lexington, Kentucky, to a group of businessmen. The price was reported as $600,000. It will be used as a site for a $15,000,000 housing development. The proprietors of the farm were Mr. and Mrs. Clarence F. Gaines. Mrs. Gaines started making dog food in her kitchen, while Mr. Gaines peddled it around. It was so well liked that they built a small factory, the capacity of which was so taxed that new and larger premises had to be built from time to time.

Then General Foods stepped in, and bought the plant and goodwill for a million dollars. The McLure and MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms bought several tons of this food for foxes in the early 1940's, and we have often talked with Mr. Gaines who said how pleased he was to get that order. With plenty of money, Mr. Gaines was in a position to indulge his hobby of buying a farm in Kentucky and breeding trotters and pacers. He has been very sucessful and some of the fastest pacers in the world have come from that farm. We understand that he and Mrs. Gaines will continue as breeders of standardbreds

OPENING

Next Thursday night the greatest harness racing showplace in the world, built at a cost of over $19,000,000 — Roosevelt Raceway —will open for operation. Every idea that will make for the comfort of the people attending — the horsemen, grooms and horses — has been attended to. A fireproof structure as high as an 11-story building holds the grandstands, made of steel, concrete and tile, they stretch 800 feet long and 200 feet deep. 2500 people can have dinner in four magnificent dining areas, one of these, the largest, can handle 1250 people. On the main floor is a 500-seat cafeteria, and through the large windows of it may be seen five acres of gardens, fountains in color, lawns, and flowers in an area where 5,000 trees were transplanted. Escalators and elevators will carry the racing fans to all levels, including a 14-bed hospital. There are 305 miles of electrical wire cabling, 5 power sub-stations, and the lighting system is equal to that of a small city. The floodlamps which light the half-mile race track costs more than $100,000, which was the capitalization of the original track.

One of the largest, if not the largest, harness racing stakes in Maine was raced at Gorham Raceway, Maine. It was made possible by Norman Woolworth, one of theh owners of the Woolworth chain stores, and a native of Maine, and an owner of harness horses, giving thhe management a cheque for $10,000 to enable them to put on a couple of free-for-all. One of them, a Pacing Stake, drew 12,000 spectators, and it was won by Duane Hanover, driven by Stanley Dancer, and he set a new mark for the track of 2.02. Last Saturday night, Duane Hanover won at Blue Bonnets Raceway, Montreal, setting a new track pacing record of 2.02 flat. Bay State Pat was second.

SPECULATE

They are already speculating as to who will win the 1957 Little Brown Jug. Torpid, 1.58, record taken as a two-year-old, and Good Counsel, 1.58 1-5, record also taken last year as a two-year-old are the favorites. But Joe O'Brien and Adios Express, which recently paced a mile in 2.01, are ont to be overlooked.

Horsemen friends and hundreds of others were very sorry to learn that the popular driver, Harold Stead, who has been up behind some of our fastest horses this season, and looked in perfect health, had to enter hospital for an operation. We all hope that he will return to us soon fully recovered.

THREE DOUBLES

There was a rather unusual happening at the races in Saint John, Wednesday night, when all three of the double-dash races produced three double winners. In the 2nd and 6th dashes, Cover Up (R. Donovan) was 1-1, W. C. Brooks (W. Carr) 2-4, Brilliant Frisco (J. Lang) 3-2, times 2.13 4-5 and 2.15. In the 3rd and 7th dashes, Ritakey (M. Coughlan) was 1-1, Monty Budlong (A. Wood) 2-3, Onton Adam (E. Kirkpatrick) 4-2, times 2.13 3-5 and 2.12 4-5. 5th and 8th dashes, Meadow Bird (A. Davidson) 1-1, Linda Abbedale (B. Lawson) 2-4, Betty Brook, B. (Lang) 3-2, times 2.11-1-5 and 2.11 1-5. The single dash was won by Federal Dawn (L. Queen), Marilyn B. (Fillmore), 2 time 2.19 3-5.

Monday night's program at the Charlottetown Track was greatly enjoyed by the large crowd present, and friends of Dr. Preston MacIntyre, Montague, and driver Chappell, were pleased to see him come through with Royal Train in both dashes of the B. Trot. Baby Train (Arsenault) was 4-2, and Joppa Maid (E. Shaw) 2-4, very close up, time 2.15 1-5 and 2.15. Another Montague horse, Money Royal, driven by Emmett Bernard, won both dashes of the C Pace, with Lou Budlong (MacNeill) 2-3, Helen's Dream (Poulton) 6-2, time 2.15 1-5 and 2.15. Driver Arsenault had another winner, Parker's Pick, in the D. Pace, giving him a record of 2.18. E. Smith, driving Cooly Boy, and C. Smith, driving Tribune, divided the two dashes in the B Pace, with Tribune stepping the fastest heat of the night in 2.11 4-5.

Another splendid program has been lined up for tonight at the Charlottetown oval, and anyone wanting a couple of hours of real excitement in a comfortable grandstand and bleachers, can't miss it at Charlottetown Raceway.

At Moncton Raceway, Wednesday night Model Budlong was the first and fourth dashes in 2.19 and 2.18 3-5. Resourceful was 2-2.

John Frederick (J. Gougen) won second and sixth dashes with Don Truax (G. Gaudet) 2-2. Time 2.16 3-5, 2.15 1-5.

In the third and seventh dashes Frankie Budlong (J. Gougen) was 2-1. Lakeside Abbe Mite (E. Gougen) 1-3. Time 2.16, 2.17.

The fifth dash was won by Ann's Boy (J. Gougen). Time 2.12 2-5 and eighth dash was the same field by Tenniswood (E. Gougen). Time 2.16 3-5.

At Fredericton Raceway Thursday night Teddy Weir placed John Jollity in the 2.10 list by winning the eighth dash. The fourth dash with the same field was won by Dominions Pride in 2.14. Teddy also drove Homestretch Ade to a win in second dash. Time 2.13. My Clegg (Killan) won the seventh dash in 2.16.

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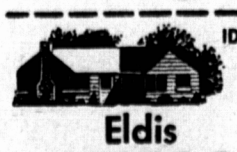

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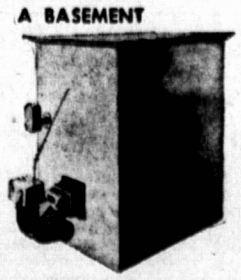

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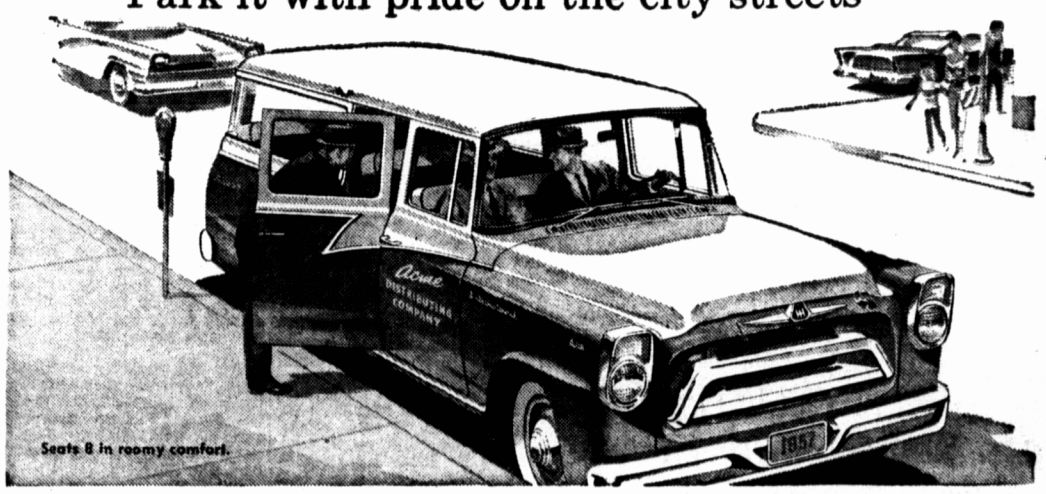

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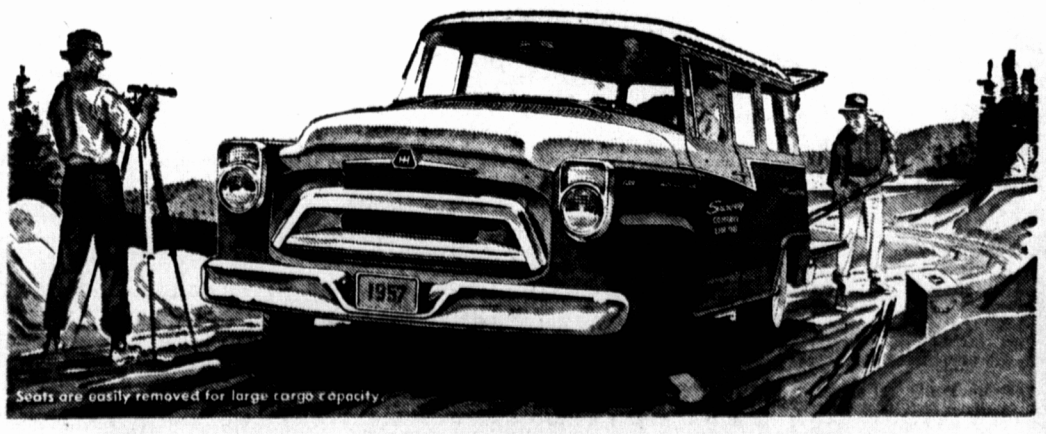

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