

Back Stretch

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beginning of the season and took a record of 2.13 and was just nosed out in 2.10 by Peach But-ter, that you will remember was sold by Harry Hirsch for \$7,500 to parties here. My mare started 50 times and was only out of the money six times. Another good mare I had was Filbert 2.09. She won two races in 2.10 and 2.11, 2.11 1/5, 2.11 2/5. (Filbert was bought by Rimouski parties from Walter Hennessey of this city) and was nine times steady. Early in August a horse stuck his toes in right in front of me on the first turn, so I had to pull her out right quick and hurt her ankle behind. We got her fixed and turned her out for the rest of the season and I am jogging her now and she looks to be O.K. again. She is a handsome mare and is very likeable.

"Another member of the stable was the four-year-old Humdale. This was his first season racing and he took a mark of 2.17. Sister Mary Hoo that we bought from Claude O'Brien and that I gave a mark of 2.18 3/5 last year at Old Home Week in Charlottetown, took a new mark of 2.15 and was just photoed out in 2.13. This mare has improved very much and I believe will be much better next year. After racing was over in the fall I kept working her and she was a mile in 2.13 to a jog cart and I have hopes of her being a 2.10 pacer next year. Her trouble here was that she did not get away fast enough but she made up for it in the last end, frequently stepping halves in 1.05. One has to have them go away well now in classified races where eight of them are practically of the same speed.

"I drove a real good colt this summer called Peter B-coke 3rd. I won with him in 2.11 easy and

later won a Free For All in 2.12 in the mud and the following week worked him in 2.09, last half in 1.03, so the owner decided to lay him over and stake him next year as he is only a 2.22 class pacer. So out of the six horses I raced I gave four of them new marks and I call that a lot of good luck. I drove some 125 heats and won a round 40 firsts and a good many seconds. Had third and out of the money about nine or ten times in all my summer's racing. I saw some real good racing on our tracks here. Indian Land, Joe O'Brien's former star, paced in 2.04 2/5, L.E.M. in 2.05 and Seattle Hanover in 2.05, etc. As for the trotters there are some real good ones here. Herry Hanover trotted in 2.06 also. Projectile and there were a lot of others that could beat 2.10 easily. At present I am wintering eight head and everything is looking real good up here for next summer. I would like to add that I really missed Old Home Week but I surely enjoy reading Down the Back Stretch. Here's hoping to hear from you soon." - Thanks, every, and our congratulations on the good success you have had and our hopes that it will be even greater the coming year.

And now we hear from Walter S. Found, Merced, California, an Islanders who has more than made good in that wonderful country - - "Dear Dan: With the help of the mails, I am forwarding today a small box of California sunsets just so you may know old friends mean a lot. Good wishes and good health! We have had a very open fall - practically no rains through the month of November. Although it is a little early, we are due for rains in the valley and snow in the mountains; otherwise, this land of milk and honey would be devoid of the makings. This has given us a chance to do a little work on the colts. Currently, I have one yearling coming 2, two 2-year-olds coming 3; Prudent Found coming 6 (I last raced in

Hunter's Corner

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cluded among the hunters interviewed were five who attended the Queen's County meeting who had registered their votes in favour of the 1951 seasons... in short they voted for it and yet left the meeting far from satisfied.

This is quite understandable to those who have attended Fish and Game meetings. Every second member has some pet idea he wants to put over and the pros and cons and what have you are argued until everyone winds up with a headache and are in a mood to vote for most anything so long as it means getting outside for a breath of fresh air. From what I can gather the resolution adopted by the Queen's County Branch is contrary to the wishes of at least 75% of Queen's County gunners. The meeting was attended by 24 members. Three voted against the resolution, at least two abstained from voting, leaving nineteen to all intents and purposes in favor of the resolution. One sportsman who attended summed up the meeting up in a few words: "Everyone seemed pretty well satisfied to have October 10th as an opening date until a member arose and spoke at length. He stressed the point that they had to take into consideration the welfare of the older hunters who couldn't stand being out in rough weather, etc., etc., and the whole question became a mixed up affair."

To this columnist's way of thinking October 15th is a little too drastic change. Nine days out of the first end of October will work no great hardship on anyone and will give the birds a better chance. Not only will the birds be larger and in better flesh, they will also be wiser and better able to look out for themselves. The life span of a Hun is short, they are ready for the scrap heap in five years, and days in a Hun's life are the equivalent of years in ours.

If 14 days were cut off there is bound to be considerable unfavorable re-action. The hunters who specialize in ducks and geese wouldn't mind in the least but the outdoorsmen who put in their leisure hours tramping the stubble fields and swales after Huns and pheasants would feel as if they were being discriminated against. Upland game bird hunting does not require much preparation. It's merely a matter of a pair of light walking boots or shoes, a coat or jacket with roomy pockets, a shotgun and whistle (the whistle is for calling in the dog, if a dog is available).

I talked to two prominent innkeepers this week. Both were agreed that October 10th as an opening date would not interfere with business to any extent as the non-resident hunters who visit the province regularly each fall in quest of Huns and pheasants have expressed opinions that the season opened a little too early as later in the month the birds were in better flesh and made for sportier shooting.

Another unexpected element, a sort of dark horse as it were, has emerged in favour of a later opening date... the farmer who doesn't hunt. The first week or 10 days in October is a busy time on the farm, outdoor thrashing, potatoes and turnips to be harvested and shipped to early market, etc. Many farmers who express annoyance at hunters roaming over their land during the first part of October adopt a more lenient attitude toward this form of outdoor sport later in the month. The prohibiting of hunting during the first nine days of October will go a long way toward improving farmer-sportsmen relations. Meet a P.E.I. farmer half way and you'll find 99 times out of a 100, that he's the most agreeable person in the world.

High-Pressure Sports Opposed For Youngsters

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP) - The National Education Association Thursday struck out at what it called high-pressure sports competition among youngsters of elementary or junior high-school age. A committee completing a three-year study condemned such things as little league baseball, "little" bowl games, midget football and "biddy" basketball for youngsters 12 years old or younger. (For real bidders, by the way, there's even "biddy" basketball.) The committee said highly-organized competition gives youngsters an exaggerated idea of the importance of sports and may even be harmful to them. The views of the committee were summed up in a 46-page booklet entitled: "Desirable athletic competition for children."

These views were amplified by the committee's chairman Simon A. McNeely, at a press conference. McNeely is a specialist on health and recreation for the United States Office of Education. McNeely said highly-organized sports for youngsters has grown rapidly since the war. A survey of doctors shows they fear highly-competitive sports may be injurious to health at this age. He said doctors listed dangers from over-exhaustion or bone injuries. McNeely said youngsters mature at different rates, and that those who stand out in sports at the age of 12 or so usually are boys who have matured faster than others. The committee's suggestion: Informal intramural competition for children in upper elementary grades and physical education for all youngsters.

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Science Awards Are Announced

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP) - Alton L. Blakeslee, a science reporter for the Associated Press, and Morton M. Hunt, a freelance writer, Thursday won \$1,000 awards for science writing.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science named the writers, both New Yorkers, to receive the annual AAAS-George Westinghouse awards. Blakeslee, son of the late Howard W. Blakeslee, long-time science editor of the AP, was the winner in the field of newspaper science writing. His prize-winning project was a series of four articles based on a visit last summer to the Jack-

son Memorial Laboratory at Bar Harbor, Me. Scientists there raise 1,000,000 mice yearly for use in the search for clues to the prevention and possible cure of cancer, anaemia, nerve and mental disorders and many other diseases. Blakeslee reported in detail on promising and vital research at the laboratory. Hunt won his prize for an article, "Neurosis Factory," in the July is-

ssue of Esquire magazine. The article described experiments conducted by Dr. Howard S. Liddell, Cornell University psychobiologist, designed to ferret out causes of "nervous breakdowns" and other neurotic conditions.

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