

Belleville Fans Are Celebrating

BELLEVILLE, Ont. (CP) — Home town fans streamed into downtown Belleville Friday as Belleville McFarlands won the Allan Cup hockey championship at Kelowna, B.C.

Bonfires were lit in the main streets and fans staged an impromptu celebration.

Fire reels were called out to douse the flames but the crowd started the fires again as soon as they were put out. However, there were no serious incidents.

The celebrations of Belleville's 5-3 victory in the deciding game of the best-of-seven series against Kelowna Packers for the Canadian senior amateur hockey title lasted nearly two hours.

Probable Pitchers

NEW YORK (AP) — Probable pitchers for today's major league baseball games (won-lost records in parentheses):

National League
Cincinnati at St. Louis—Haddix (1-1) vs. Mizell (0-2).
Milwaukee at Chicago — Rush (1-1) vs. Phillips (0-0).
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles — Friend (3-0) vs. Kipp (1-0).
Philadelphia at San Francisco — Simmons (1-2) vs. Monzant (2-2).
American League
Chicago at Washington—Donovan (0-3) vs. Griggs (0-0).
Cleveland at Baltimore — Melish (0-0) vs. O'Dell (1-2).
Kansas City at New York—Urban (1-0) vs. Larsen (2-0).
Detroit at Boston—Shaw (0-1) vs. Nixon (0-3).

Hunters' Corner

(Continued from page 8)

able controversy regarding the value of annual introductions of farm-raised birds. In recent years game management organizations everywhere have been giving critical appraisals of the practice.

The results of many studies suggest very strongly that artificial stockings are costly, uneconomical, and contribute relatively little toward improving pheasant abundance or pheasant hunting. This impression has certainly characterized the results of 6 consecutive years of banding studies maintained by the Game Commission.

In the six years from 1949 to 1954 the B.C. Government purchased 95,902 pheasants at a cost of \$191,915.25. It recovered \$69,769.70 from the sale of pheasant tags. The loss was \$122,147.25.

Never more than 30 per cent of the cock birds released in any one year were ever recovered yet compared with the recovery in some other areas of the United States and Canada this was good but, it brought the value of a released cock pheasant from \$2.25 at stocking \$7.53 when harvested. Nor is this improved by recovery of birds in subsequent years as apparently few survive after the first year.

With the current difficulties of producing a good-quality bird and the increasing difficulties imposed by gradual urbanization of suitable pheasant range, the

problem of improving pheasant hunting by artificial methods becomes ever more complicated. Developing restrictions affecting hunter access to private property further negate the value of stocking. If the opportunity of harvesting of released birds is curtailed by the posting of private property little is to be gained by stocking areas where most of the good pheasant habitat is on alienated land.

It has therefore been decided that the British Columbia Game Commission, will not purchase farm-raised pheasants for release after 1957." unique.

One sentence of the above is worthy of a reprint: "Nor is this improved by recovery of birds in subsequent years as apparently few survive after the first year." I have met and talked with members of the B.C. Game Commission regarding their pheasant restocking program while attending Wildlife Conference in Ottawa and Montreal. They went after it big thousands as many as fifteen thousand in a single planting. The great bulk of re-stocked pheasants were cocks as they only were legal game.

One member in particular interested me greatly as he had a lot to do with the pheasant program. One experiment they tried set everyone thinking. In 1951 or 52 five thousand fully matured cock pheasants were released in the Chilliwack Valley a month before the pheasant season opened. A section of the Valley approximately 10 miles long was selected for the experiment. It was already populated with wild pheasants accessible to hunters from Vancouver but the main attraction was that it was a natural for setting up road blocks for game bag checks. Thousands of pheasant tags were sold and literally thousands of hunters flocked to the spot on opening morning.

For days a game bag check was kept and the birds tabulated as to whether they were re-stocked or wild pheasants. The year of release was stamped on the bands. The game officers and Commission officials were due for a shock. True 30 per cent of the banded cocks were accounted for, or 1500 of the released pheasants, were bagged. But... for every five re-stocked pheasants found in hunters game bags there were 95 wild pheasants. Another shockingly five of the remaining three thousand five hundred released birds were found in hunters game bags in the next two years. That means that 3,495 pheasants vanished into thin air from this 5,000 release. There was just one conclusion to reach... the vast majority of the planting failed to survive the first few weeks. This experiment really set the Game Commission thinking and thinking hard.

The overall returns from released pheasants over the six year period averaged 20 per cent. The Chilliwack Valley planting was a record. In comparison with some States to the south of us this average is very high. Sometimes plantings, particularly along the eastern seaboard, fall below the 5 per cent mark. Provinces in middle and eastern Canada have also fallen close to zero. The point I wish to bring home is: When the Government of British Columbia releases 15,983 pheasants... almost 16,000 per year over a six

year period at a cost in pheasants alone close to \$200,000 mark and reports at the close of the experiment that it was costly, uneconomical and contributing relatively little toward improving pheasant hunting or pheasant abundance? what does a mere handful of private citizens in this province hope to accomplish on a dole allowance with a few hundred pheasants per year. Some people never learn... not while they are playing with capital other than their own at least. Another item: the pheasants released in the province this spring cost \$4.50 per bird. The B.C. pheasants cost \$2.25 per bird. Another phase of the pheasant program will be commented upon next week.

Back Stretch

(Continued from page 8)

In the fall of 1953 that Earl returned from Roosevelt Raceway, bringing back a young trotting named Dean Gallon. He had been sold, with others, in a dispersal sale there, and Earl, who had taken a fancy to him, was the high bidder and brought him back with him.

His career in 1954 was exceptional, as in ten starts he won all of them, and many will recall the free-for-all trot during Old Home Week on August 14, which Dean Gallon won in three straight heats. Neil Kalmuck 2-2-2, Cobblestone 3-4-6, Mary Merk 4-3-7, and four others starters. Time 2:12, 2:09 4/5 and 2:10 2/5.

AGAINST TIME

After the races he was given a short letup, and then was sent against the "watch" and to the surprise of those who were present he trotted in 2:04 3/5 at the Charlottesville track. Two very reliable horsemen caught the mile and there is no doubt that it was a genuine performance.

Earl then shipped him to the state of Maine and won all his races there. The news of his extraordinary mile at Charlottesville filtered through the Maritimes, and R. J. Logue of Sydney wrote to Sanders Russell in Alabama to come up and look him over for soundness.

Dean Gallon was harnessed and hooked up, and Russell sat behind him as Earl brushed him over the roads around Kensington. Russell advised Logue to buy him, and he met Earl's price of \$20,000.

He was taken away by Sanders Russell and given a short preparation at his track in Alabama and then moved on with other members of the stable to Roosevelt Raceway, which opened in early April. On April 11, he won

a \$2,000 trot in 2:06 3/5. On April 22 he won a \$3,000 trot in 2:07 3/5. And on April 29, he won a \$3,000 trot in 2:09 4/5.

TO FASTEST CLASS

This was pretty strenuous work for a horse that had been laid up from the previous fall and had never been asked to step fast prior to his sale. Earl was intending to go along with his training, as usual, having in mind starting to race in the latter part of May or early in June, so what might be expected happened. It may be the fastest class on the program at Roosevelt, where he met Katie Key, 1:59 1/5, winner then of over \$178,000; Lord Stewart, 3. 2:02, then the winner of \$275,000; and Torch Key, 2:02 4/5, winner of over \$51,000. The result was that Dean Gallon developed lameness and had to be retired. Thus the career of what promised to be one of the sensational trotters of all time was brought to a close.

We may mention that his sire was Bill Gallon, took a trotting record of 1:59 1/5, and is the sire of three trotters with records better than 2:00 and the sire of 15 trotters with records of 2:05 or better, and sire of 11 pacers with records of 2:05 or better. His dam is the famous brood mare, Lois Hanover, by Dean Hanover, 1:59 1/5. She is the dam of trotters with records better than 2:05.

We mention that the well known young caretaker Ralph Shepherd will be assisting Earl with his stable this year.

EXPECTED TOO MUCH

Len O'Meara, whose stable is racing at Rockingham Park, New Hampshire, hasn't had much success with Section Man 3, 2:03 3/5. Probably Len and the owner haven't expected to do too much there, the reason being that Section Man is a very big horse that takes tremendous strides, and he wasn't expected to be a great threat in the fast classes on a half-mile oval. The racing he is getting now will put him in shape, and from Rockingham he may go to Vernon Downs, and thence on to the

mile tracks, where it wouldn't be surprising if he took a record of 2:00, and we hope he will.

The track at Rockingham must be getting much faster, as we notice where Rapid Goose won in 2:05 2/5, and Canny Scott won in 2:05 3/5. The purses were \$1,750 for Rapid Goose and \$3,900 for Canny Scott.

The first suspension that we have noted this season in the East was handed out to Dale Eastman of Tulare, California, and it will be for the balance of the meeting at Rockingham Park which closes on May 17.

The incident for which the suspension was incurred happened in the sixth race, Saturday, April 26, when Eastman finished second with Pointer's First, a 4-5 favorite in a race, which in the opinion of the stewards, the horse was "very evidently able to win".

GOOD FIELDS

Over 100 trotters and pacers are being given training or jogging over the Charlottesville track every week day. They range in age from two years to 14 years, and in our opinion is the largest horse population that we can recall at this time of year, and it means that the racing programs which start on June 7 and run to September 28, will have good fields and give good enjoyment to the race fans.

Up to Friday, the track record for the season was 2:18 3/5, held jointly by Raven Abbe, 3, 2:07, and Minneapolis, 2:10 3/5.

The former was driven by Dave Constable and the latter by James (Roach) MacGregor, the owner.

One of the happiest young men in this province is Stewart MacRae, Special Prim, who has taken a special interest and care of the one-time great race mare, Bessie Budlong, 2:12 3/5, that retired from campaigning in 1955 after winning more than \$2,000 in her previous year's racing.

She had been mated to Lucky Chief, 2:04 1/5, record taken over a half-mile track, that also retired from competition at the close of 1954. During his campaigning, he won \$44,750. He is now owned by Frank MacKay, East Royalty, Bessie Budlong is owned by Alexander Beaton, North River, who is also a great horse lover. The foal which is so well bred is doing nicely due to Stewart MacRae's interest.

Aubrey Kelzer writes in his Sportsycle in the Cape Breton Post, that the racing at Sydney Sports Center this year is sure to be most interesting, and the first races will be held later this month.

BOOM

Interest in harness racing has boomed in the New Waterford area recently, and some 40 trotters and pacers from there are ready to move into the Sports Center, swelling the population of trotters and pacers to something like 110.

W. P. Edwards of Fredericton, N. B., has very kindly sent us an official program from Roosevelt Raceway for the night of April 26. The attendance was 36,126 and the pari-mutuel "take" was \$2,230,664. Belle Acton, driven by Billy Haughton, won the fifth race in 2:01 3/5 for a purse of \$7,500. This is the fastest mile over a half-mile track this season.

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Saturday, May 3, 1958

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