

Back Stretch

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Broom 2:00%, a horse with tremendous speed, but lacking in manners. He is training him free-legged this year and that is the way I drove him. Joe set the pace with a fast record horse and we finished the eighth as much the same clip as previously except that Golden Broom's last quarter was in 30% and the mile in 2:14%. Our final mount was with the three-year-old trotter Dinner Date, that had won at Santa Anita some days previously. She took a record of 2:07% last year and is staked in over \$100,000 worth of futurities including the Hambletonian. She is perfect and does not pull a pound and you can place her anywhere. Her first mile was in 2:16 with the last eighth, which we did not go to at all, in 15 seconds. In the next heat Joe said to cut her loose at the eighth. Her mile was in 2:14% with the last eighth in 14% seconds—certainly terrific speed.

I was also invited to drive some of his two-year-olds the following day, as was our friend Henry DeWitt. Henry thought it would be rather risky driving two-year-olds with so many horses on the track and also the harrows and watering cart, that some accident might happen, and I concurred. Joe was disappointed that we did not go out but we explained the matter to him and he realized that we were right. He said he had the two-year-olds in great shape for us and that three of them had worked in 2:21 with halves ranging from 1:06 to 1:08. He has 37 horses in his stable and his staff is loyal and keen. We were very much impressed with his assistant trainer and all the grooms. They are really in love with their horses and gave them every attention. On Thursday morning I was wondering what I would do, whether I would try and get back and see the hockey playoffs—which I expected would go into the second week—or remain. We three Maritimers had gone out to the track early and watched the horses working out. The air was won-

derful and I remarked that 'this is the place and we should stay for a fortnight'. That afternoon we were up on the grand stand and it got so hot I had to leave for an hour or two. I decided then that our climate at home was more suitable to me and arranged to fly back. The paper the next morning stated that the temperature in Los Angeles rose to 86 degrees, making it the hottest March 27th since 1893.

Our good friend Cecil H. McGinley of Houlton, Maine, writes that Alfred Green of Houlton, who has raced the good pacing mare Early Dawn 2:05%, for the past three years, informs him that the mare has been taken out of training and will be bred to Knight Dream 1:59. She has had three attacks of lymphangitis this winter and it is not believed possible to get her in race condition for this summer. It is hard luck for Mr. Green and his partner of the Almac Stable, as she is a very high class race mare, only six years old, and earned \$11,117 last year. She was sired by Lester Johnston, Fortune Bridge, P. E. I., and was sired by Playday 2:04%. Thanks, Cecil, for remembering us.

Acting for Lawrence B. Shepard, President of the U.S.T.A., F. C. McCurdy, director of the U. S. T. A., Truro, N. S., purchased from David Neima, New Glasgow, N.S. last week the trotting mare Nelda Hanover 2:14%. Last season she was four times first, four times second and five times third. Nelda is by Calumet Chuck and her dam is Isabel Hanover, one of the highly thought of brood mares at Hanover Shoe Farms, and the dam of Duke of Lullwater 2, 2:03%, top two-year-old trotter of 1951 with earnings of over \$58,000. Nelda Hanover some years ago was bred to The Great G. 2:02%, and she has a foal which is called David G. and he is now owned by Clayton MacLeod, Westville, N. S.

Many will remember Charles Crummer of Ontario, who with Mrs. Crummer came here in 1934 with his famous pacer Guy the Tramp 2:02%, and they will also remember the great race which Mr. Crummer and Guy put up against Toll Gate on that occasion. Toll Gate won all three heats, Guy the Tramp at his pad or sulky, time 2:06%, 2:05%, 2:06%. The middle mile was the track record until it was lowered to 2:05% by Bud Wenger in 1936. We were unaware of Charlie's presence at Santa Anita until we went over the score card and saw that Helen Perkins was racing. She finished second that day in a good field and the afternoon before we left she won in 2:06%, which is a new mark for her. We also had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Crummer and both of them are looking real well and have

gotten along splendidly.

Leonard Barrieau of Lakeburn, N. B. has been one of the real progressive breeders of the Maritimes through the years. He is always on the lookout for a good stallion and just recently purchased Mighty Hanover 2:02% by Mr. McElwain 1:59%, dam, Lola Hanover by Calumet Chuck. Many will remember this good pacer when he was owned by W. G. Stewart, New Glasgow, N. S., and will recall that on July 25, 1945, he set the track pacing record of 2:06 at Union Track, New Glasgow. Later on he was sold to Gerald Veilleux of Drummondville, Que. As part payment for this stallion Mr. Barrieau gave the two-year-old pacer Truly Volo, full sister to Royal Bank 2:19%, holder of the Maritimes record for two-year-old pacers made at Charlottetown last September. Mr. Barrieau has seven year-old colts and he expects to have an equal number of spring arrivals. He also has a two-year-old stallion by Federal 2:01% out of a Pine Ridge Beverly mare. Altogether he has 25 head of horses.

We have a good friend at St. Nicholas, P.E.I. in Anthony Perry, who keeps right up to date on all harness horse happenings. He is particularly pleased with the performance of Fearless Way, the two-year-old pacing mare by King's Counsel, dam, Jane Azon 1:59%, which of course makes her more familiar to Maritimers. I am sure he will be glad to know that Fearless Way last week stepped the fastest mile pacing for a two-year-old over a southern race track—2:14%. Mr. Perry is also very much pleased because the Truro Raceway is planning to stage a Jolity three-year-old pace in 1955 and believes it is a step in the right direction that will help encourage owners of fine mares to breed to top sires. A race that particularly pleased him was the Free For All at Charlottetown, August 18, 1945, where Widow's Pride won the first heat in 2:06%, Tip Abbe the second in 2:08 and Mighty Hanover came on to win the next two and race in 2:09%, 2:10. He believes that was one great meeting and it certainly was. The day previous Wilkin won the Junior Free For All with 1-1-3, Happy L. 4-3-1, five other starters, time, 2:10%, 2:08, 2:08. Wilkin was owned by Charlie Craig, Halifax, and Charlie was certainly a happy man that day as he had a pocket full of tickets.

Enclosed was a number of snapshots taken at various tracks, one of Abner the Great 2:11%, (Sobey), Campbell's Buddy 2:13 (MacGregor), June B. (R. MacDonald), Jennie Kalmuck 2:10% (H. O'Donnell), Yankee Dale 2:15% (Jerry Sheen), and Bonnie's Boy 2:08% (J. Harkness). We

Hunters Corner

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that such a heavy concentration of black ducks would remain and nest with us. I have observed similar heavy spring migrations of blacks in years past but noted an appreciable thinning out in numbers after mid April.

Crows are also abundant but a good percentage of those present haven't shown any home making signs. It won't be long now till one will see them carrying dry hay, dead grass or feathers in their bills. The late Jack Miner was a bitter enemy of the crow and for good cause. I remember in one of his writings where he told of watching a crow flying across a grassy meadow. It was during the month of June when nesting activity was at its height. Suddenly the crow banked sharply and came to rest on the ground. Mr. Miner was only a teen age lad at the time but when he heard the alarmed chirping of a song sparrow, he dashed for the house and his gun as fast as his bare feet could carry him. He was too late to save the nest as the crow was already in the air and taking off at high speed when he returned. Even in his young days Jack was a crack shot and when the gun spoke, the crow crumpled in midair. When it hit the ground it spewed up four fledgling song sparrows.

After he had examined the dead crow he began to wonder how it had spotted the fledglings in the nest as it was well concealed by long grass. With Jack Miner to wonder was to do something about finding a cause for such an incident. He secured a bit of dry punk and set it beside the empty nest and touched a match to it. As the thin line of smoke wavered upward in the slight air current, he observed that it crossed the exact point in the air the crow was flying when it suddenly banked and came to earth. Jack always insisted ever after that a crow's sense of smell is acute and that this particular crow caught a whiff of the young birds as it flew past the nest.

With National Wildlife Week in the offing, this is an opportune time to comment on at least one way some of us can help preserve our waterfowl, upland game birds, rabbits, song birds, etc. . . . keep your hunting dogs penned up or on leash during the spring and summer months. This past winter two farmers living in widely separated sections of the province stop-

ped me on the street and commented on the large number of hunting dogs roaming at will over the country. Both voiced the same opinion, although neither of them were acquainted with each other, as follows: "Unless breeders of hunting dogs exercise some discretion in respect to selling their pups for a song, or giving them away to country residents, some restrictions will have to be placed on the promiscuous distribution of hunting dogs in country districts."

That in general is the substance of their complaint. They claimed that farmers were given pups from dogs of a hunting strain and didn't realize their destructive possibilities. Consequently they were allowed to roam at large and hunted and killed game all spring and summer. A hunting dog at large during the breeding season will do far more harm than a man with a shotgun. How long would a hunter last if he started to roam over farmlands in the spring and summer shooting breeding game birds at will? Not very long I'd venture to say. And yet people will watch a dog hunting down half grown

Huns or pheasants and do nothing to put a stop to the practice.

Two and three complaints a week are coming in to game headquarters respecting hunting dogs running at large. One of the latest had to do with a collie dog eating, and eating, two full grown Huns. Collie dogs are inveterate hunters once they catch on how exciting a game it can be. This particular collie was alleged to belly up along a hedge until it was only a few feet from its quarry. Drastic action is contemplated this spring in an effort to put a stop to this needless destruction of valuable wildlife. Hunting dogs are covered under Section 5 sub section (6) of the Game Act as follows: No person shall, (a) permit any hunting dog to run at large and not under the control of its master, owner or trainer; (b) Use a dog for the purpose of hunting mink. Such an offense carries a penalty not exceeding \$50.00 or less than \$5.00 together with the costs of prosecution or in default of payment to a period not exceeding thirty days in jail.

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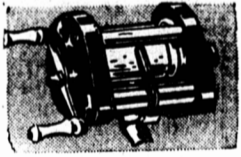
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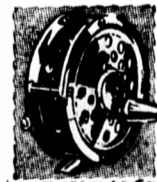
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