

Thrilling Season Recalled

(Continued from page 7)

to caretakers in the Maritimes and who is now at Truro Raceway. John also brought back in the van with him a yearling, Semper Fidelis by Watchin 2.06, purchased by Alderman Harry Breen, Halifax, also a well bred brood mare in foal to Watchin, and in addition a weanling colt purchased from C. T. Black, Pleasantdale, Virginia, and owned by W. G. "Bill" Stewart, New Glasgow. The host of friends of Harry Breen and Bill Stewart will be hoping that these youngsters turn out well and will be racing in their colors in the days to come.

Dr. Johnson, Great Village, was the high bidder on a yearling filly by Paul MacPherson 1.59, sold at the Delaware sale, and last but not least is our final speed buy for Nova Scotia, Headway 3, 2.06, a five-year-old pacer by Scotland 1.59. He had earnings of over \$20,000. The new owner is James Given, Halifax, who purchased him from S. A. Wathen & Son, Fort Fairfield, Me.

New Brunswick — Shamrock Thoughts 2.04 is an eight-year-old pacer stallion by Wilmington 4, 1.59, dam, Sweet Thoughts 2.11, dam of Deep Thoughts 2.00 and two others in 2.10. Slicker Tass is a yearling by Snafu, dam, Slick Chick, dam of Atomic Lee 4, 2.08. California bred Snafu is by Pegasus Pointer 2.02, also the sire of Argot Pointer 2.07, owned by H. B. Willis of this city. The above pacers were bought by the

well known sportsman J. E. Forbes of Fredericton, and are now in the stable of Harry Mount.

McArthur Astra 2.12 is a seven-year-old trotting gelding by Petter Astra 2.01, dam, Grace Scotland 2.04. He is superbly bred and is looked on as a good horse for his class. The new owner is Henry Bishop of Woodstock. His son, Sgt. Clowes Bishop, bought Doc Banks D, the last of the get of the great sire Royal Napoleon 2.00. She is a yearling filly and her dam is Ada Hanover. She is of nice size, splendid conformation and looks to have a real future.

All of the above were purchased at the recent Lewiston Horse Sale conducted by Arthur B. McGee.

Bill Stiles of Woodstock was another buyer to visit the Wathen Stable and he brought back with him the three-year-old pacer Mighty Bold 2.11 by Mighty H. 2.04. Reading an account of the Wathen Stable's racing this season quite a nice reference was made to Mighty Bold in it, so we are glad that Mr. Stiles has such a good one.

Arthur Kelly of Woodstock, bought the three-year-old pacer Betty's Princess 2.25 by Prince Spencer, at Lewiston. She is nicely made, smooth gaited and is expected to go fast.

Bob Brown, popular horseman of Woodstock, came back from Harrisburg with two good young prospects, Worthy Rosecroft, a two-year-old pacing gelding by Symbol Gentle 2.01, dam, Town Talk 2.08, and Titan's Lucy, a three-year-old trotter by world's cham-

plion three-year-old trotter Titan Hanover 1.56, dam, Certified Check 2.25.

George Walker, St. Stephen, was high bidder at Harrisburg on Walnut Hawk, a five-year-old pacing gelding by Black Hawk 2, 2.03, dam, Rose Signal 2.11, also on Spencer Key 4, 2.12, a six-year-old bay gelding pacer by Long Key 3, 2.00, dam, Zoom, one of two in 2.10. He also bought Top Royal a two-year-old bay pacing filly by Royal Napoleon 2.00, dam, Sadie Hanover 4, 2.11, dam of Big Bill 2.04, etc. A real prospect for the future.

Glen Jenkins, Onatham, who every year buys one or two speedsters, improves them and sells them, now owns the fast pacer Rita Chilcoat 2.08 and True Holme, with a trial record of 2.14. The Rita horse has beaten some of the best pacers in Quebec and Ontario and is tough and will go the route.

Bob Mitchell 2.05 is a seven-year-old bay horse by Chief Counsel 3, 1.57, dam, Almada Mitchell, dam of five in 2.10, by Napoleon Direct 1.59, granddam, Ruby Abbe, dam of two in 2.10 and granddam of seven in 2.10. Bob is exceptionally well bred horse, has the best of manners, will race with or without hoppers, won at Baltimore, Md. this year in 2.07, and at Harrington, Delaware, in 2.08, minus hoppers. The new owner is C. F. Punnett, Green River, N. B.

My Majesty p. 3, 2.05, t. 4, 2.06, is a two-year-old brown horse, by His Majesty 1.59, dam, Home Girl 2.16, dam of four in 2.10 including Newport Chief 2, 2.08, h.m.t., winner of the \$15,000 Reynolds Memorial Stake, etc. She is by Volomite 3, 2.03, and her dam is Kate Reynolds 2, 2.24, dam of two in 2.10. This horse has been raced by the Canadian trainer Lorne Tolhurst, the man who raced Toll Gate 2.00, with such success. He says he is a good reliable race horse either on the trot or pace.

Rex Day 2.07, nine-year-old trotter by Guy Day 3, 2.04, dam, Queen Mary 3, 2.05, dam of such outstanding trotters as Scotch Harbor 3, 2.03, Mary Day 2.04, and Dutch Harbor 2.04. Her sire is Peter Volo 4, 2.02 and her dam Lady Bird, dam of four in 2.05 including Scottish Boy 2.01. Rex Day comes from a family noted for their tough and long-wearing racing qualities. He has won over \$12,000 and is a full brother to Dutch Harbor 2.04, winner of over \$87,000. A few seasons ago Rex Day won 20 dashes, was second five times in 29 starts and took his record over a half-mile track.

Joe C. Blackstone t. 2.07, p. 2.12, both records taken over a half-mile track. Joe is eligible to the 2.22 class at either gait. His sire is Blackstone 4, 1.59, and his dam Gypsy Rose Abbe, dam of three in 2.10, by Bert Abbe 1.59. He was just nosed out in a race this season in 2.07, being beaten by the noted pacer Adio Abe 1.59. At home trotting, he was equally at home pacing and can beat 2.10 handsily over a decent half-mile track.

Bright Star 2, 2.09, seven-year-old bay trotting gelding by His Excellency 3, 1.59, dam, Star Bright by Spencer 3, 1.54. He is eligible to the 18 time, has the best of manners and should be good in his class.

The above were selected and purchased by Alfred Ringette, Green River, N. B. and with Alf's clever training and good driving they should be quite a quartet over Maritime raceways the coming season.

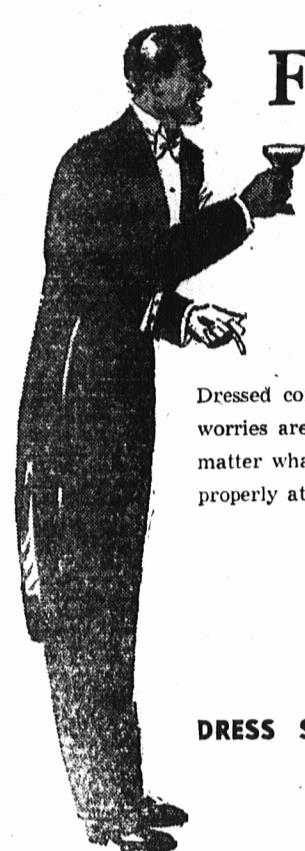
Prince Edward Island—My Darling 4, 2.08, is a pacing mare which took her record at Yonkers, October 17th on a cold, foggy night, a performance which many claim was as good as 2.06 or better. She took a record as a two-year-old of 2.08 and was timed in a race in 2.05. She is by Brown Prince 4, 2.00 and her dam is Emeline Direct and My Darling is her first foal. She has won a little over \$6,000, is nicely mannered, handsome and with her breeding should pace our tracks in 2.09 or better. She is owned by Wendell Barbour, Charlottetown.

David McLean is a brown gelding that took a three-year-old pacing record of 2.07. He is eleven years old and his sire is Scotland 1.59. He was brought here from the Lewiston sale by Myron MacArthur, Kensington. He also has a trotting record of 2.12.

Karen Direct is a three-year-old bay filly by Cardinal Prince 1.58, dam, Grace Direct W. 2.11 by Napoleon Direct 1.59, dam, Star Wink 2.14. She was trained lightly the past season and is considered a good prospect for the 1953 pacing events. Her new owner is the very popular surgeon, Dr. R. F. Seaman of this city. She was purchased at Harrisburg.

Royal Scott Jr. 2.07 is a seven-year-old bay gelding by Royal Scott. He was campaigned as a pacer for several years and at the end of 1951 had winnings of \$5,973.75, making him eligible to the 2.18 class. This season he was raced on the pace but towards the latter part of it was changed over to the trot and showed miles in 2.14. A trial in that time was given him by Len O'Meara, who visited Yonkers Raceway the latter part of October and purchased him from Bob Ryan, Houlton, Me. by George George, Charlottetown, and John McLean, Souris.

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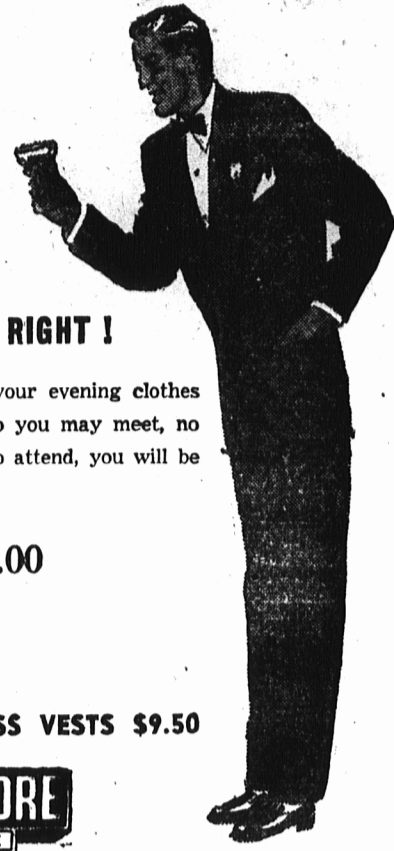
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SUMMERSIDE

A careful check of the prices paid for the above horses gives the following figures:—Nova Scotia purchases \$42,100, New Brunswick \$11,375, Prince Edward Island, \$3,600, total, \$57,075. Notwithstanding the fact that no money has been paid out for new speed in the Maritimes and it is evidence that the various raceways are preparing for a big season in 1953. New horses create new interest and new followers in the sport. That has been the history of the game ever since we knew it and no doubt will continue to be. Our heartfelt congratulations to the men who have gone to so much trouble and expense to further increase the popularity of harness racing. We hope they will be amply repaid, financially and in the pleasure and health they get from watching their horses being trained and raced the coming and following seasons.

Before we close we have just one regrettable happening to chronicle and that is the decision of our friend and everybody's friend, Willard Kelly, to retire. Willard has been the most popular owner-trainer-driver in the Maritimes for years. Not only that but he has been the most helpful, giving his time and energy to any farmer friend or other horseman who came to seek advice or help in training, shoeing or driving his horse. It was a shock indeed to our readers to learn that shortly after the season closed at Charlottetown he held a sale and disposed of all his horses, some of them wonderfully bred, for a veritable song. He also sold his harness, sulkeys and other equipment. We hope, and we know the hope is shared by thousands throughout this province and the Maritimes,

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IN MEMORIAM

And now again we pay a last tribute of respect to the worthy horseman whose race on earth has been run and who are now away from the glamour and excitement of the track and in the peaceful last rest.

The sudden death of Herb Campbell in February was unexpected, although he had not been in extra good health for quite a long time. Herb's place of business was a rendezvous for horsemen for upwards of 35 years and there the race horses, drivers and their performances were thoroughly discussed. It was a most friendly spot and made so by the genial remarks and careful handling of his customers by Herb. Herb had an excellent memory for horses and their records and was often appealed to as an authority. He loved horses and raced several during his career, the most notable being the daily little trotter The Pup 2.20, that won one of the most exciting races held at the Charlottetown track Exhibition of 1926. Herb was a frequent visitor to the Harrisburg sales and a welcome comrade wherever met.

James T. Waite of Traveller's Rest, passed away early in June. He was a great horseman and a very successful farmer who strove to improve the breed of race horses by the importation of Premier Witte and later by Bud Axworthy, a full brother to the world's champion Lee Axworthy 1.58, and another well bred horse, Catalina by Bingen. The blood of these horses flows through quite a number of our good performers and has given them speed and other racing qualities that have contributed to their success. Mr. Waite lived to a good old age and until incapacitated always attended to the nearby race meets and the Charlottetown Exhibition.

A widely known and very highly thought of horseman, Aubrey Blanchard Harvey, died early in June at Windsor, N. S. During his lifetime he owned such good horses as Friar 2.09, Billy P. C. Parker 2.11 and various others. He took pleasure in exercising his horses and was in the act of harnessing a horse when he suffered a heart attack from which he failed to recover.

A horseman of the long ago, Alfred Darby, formerly of Abraham's Village and later of Summerside, passed away there on June 26th. Looking over the old time records of the early 1890's we came across Mr. Darby's name very frequently. He had good horses and drove them himself. He was a successful farmer and highly thought of by everyone who knew him. He died at the ripe age of 87, mourned by his family and many friends. His son, Hon. Walter E. Darby is our present Attorney General.

John A. Stewart, New Glasgow, N. S., also died in June and it was during a banquet in his honor that death occurred. He was for many years a member of the

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH

Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Pelting foxes and mink also is pretty well over for this season. The mink will outnumber the foxes by about three to one, quite a difference from some years ago. Back in the '30's we can remember when this Island was producing between 30 and 40 thousand silver fox annually. Our own ranch was producing 1,500 to 1,600 foxes and Wilfred Lecky in later years raised 1,600 and over. Pelting foxes this year will be on a comparatively small scale. The estimate is not more than 3,000 and Wilfred Lecky's ranch and the McLure and MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms will provide the bulk of these.

It really put the Island on the map and that held up until 1939-40 when there was a very big slump and fox pelts did not realize the cost of production, but there was a quick change about and fox pelts jumped in price with platinum bringing as high as \$220 and silvers over \$100. The year 1945 was one of the best and a few nights ago looking over our sales figures received from the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association we found that the platinum averaged \$166 with \$220 as top and silvers were sold at \$50 and \$60 readily. The only fly in the ointment then and during the war years was the fact that we were a company and were allowed to have only about \$4,000 as profits outside our salaries, which were the regular thing. The government took 100 per cent of the balance. After the war they returned 20 per cent and that is what has been keeping us going, together with the lower prices of fox pelts ever since.

Just what brought about the collapse of the fox business is difficult to tell, but we attribute it largely to the bad judgment shown by Fromm Bros. in cutting out the retailer and the manufacturer and the consignment houses. Fromm's trying to do the whole thing themselves and get all the profit, killed the goose that laid the golden egg. Mink breeders are not going to follow in their footsteps. They are taking care to merchandise their pelts through the various consignment houses and these people are making a splendid job of handling them, but mink has got to such a stage and the production is so large that it is necessary to keep up a tremendous kind of publicity just how long it will hold the attention of the public is problematical but unless there is another fur to take its place, or unless the ladies go back to long-haired furs it seems good for several years.

In a late issue of a Swedish magazine there is an article entitled, "Here Comes Dior", who of course is the celebrated French designer, and he is said to have placed his confidence in the return of silver fox as the following will explain... "Swedish fox breeders, rejoice! Swedish furriers, take courage! The fox is coming back. At least that is what Dior says, and it is synonymous with the whole fashion world. His big wintertroats have not only the right front breadth and the collar trimmed with fur, but the fur is very often fox of all kinds and in all colours. It is a fashion novelty that we in our country welcome."

Final and official results of the December sale at Oslo have been issued as follows: Silver fox, 11,083 offered, 55 per cent sold with selective demand for trimming. Blue fox, 9,524, selective demand. Best quality pale and extra pale Norwegian blue fox went to Paris houses. Harry Rapoport of Los Angeles, Cal., acquired a parcel of 100 choice pelts. Standard mink first and second quality males, offered 12,343, 87 per cent sold at an average of 108 kroner and a top of 165 kroner (\$23.10). Females, 10,446, 99 per cent sold at an average of 69 kroner and a top of 87.

Musial Gains Another Title

NEW YORK, Dec. 26—(AP)—Stan Musial had another title under his belt today with the release of the final set of official National League statistics for 1952.

The St. Louis Cardinals' stalwart compiled the highest slugging percentage for the sixth straight year. His average last season, .538 was somewhat under par for the outfielder-first baseman who holds the N.L. slugging record of .579.

Associated Press tabulations released last October also had Musial the National League slugging leader with an identical .538 figure.

Hank Sauer of Chicago Cubs was second with a .531 average followed by Ted Kluszewski of Cincinnati, .508; Ralph Kiner of Pittsburgh and Brooklyn's Gil Hodges, .500 each; Duke Snider, Brooklyn, .495 and Sid Gordon, Boston, .483.

Kiner, for the second straight year, received the most bases on balls, 110.

A despatch from Johannesburg S. A., to Women's Wear Daily has the following: Women throng to a fashion show of nylon furs at the Belfast warehouse. The furs were all made in South Africa from imported nylon. Many women took advantage of the management's suggestion that they feel for themselves the fabric that looks as much like many of the more expensive furs. A wide variety of furs had been fashioned into full length coats, toppers, boleros and stoles and the price of the coats ranged according to length between £20 and £25. One of the Johannesburg furriers commenting on the above said, "Nylon fur which is so artificial in looks that a man with only one-half an eye could detect it does not represent any threat to the fur trade."

And now Argentina is going to export furs. It is only in comparatively recent years that they started to fur farm there, growing nutria, otter and foxes. They claim now that there is not sufficient demand in the Argentine to absorb their output and hope to export the surplus to Germany, France and other European countries and to the United States.

An offering of 17,361 mink from the United Mink Breeders' Association was 87 per cent sold at Lamppson's sale last week. Sales room observers felt that levels for these skins were generally better than a year ago. Female pelts throughout the sale continued to show strongly and were held to be stronger than males generally. At the Seattle sale fine dark standard mink sold at December, 1951, levels and ordinary quality skins declined 10 per cent. The offering of 25,250 standards was 65 per cent sold. Fine standard males brought \$24 to \$37.50, females, \$15 to \$17. Ordinary males \$17 to \$21, females, \$9 to \$10.

An offering of 60,000 standard ranch mink was 70 per cent sold and 6,000 pastels were 100 per cent sold at the Danish Fur Sales, Copenhagen, last week. Standard males reached a top of 168 kroner and females 120 kroner. Pastels brought a top of 345 kroner with an average of 211. The main buyers were Europeans. There was strong competition for selected grades and cheaper females. A kroner is worth about fourteen cents, so the top price for a pastel would be about \$48.30.

The above concludes our Timely Notes on Silver Fox and Mink Farming for this year and as this reaches you prior to the New Year we wish to offer our sincerest wishes that it will be a happy and prosperous one for you and yours. We appreciate very much the kind words that have been spoken for this column and the fact that it is recognized as of value to fox and mink ranchers.