

Back Stretch

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times as a sire had reached a very low ebb. One of the mares he had been bred to was Panella, a daughter of Arion and she was sold to J. M. Johnston of Calais, Me., together with her foal by Peter the Great. That foal proved to be Todd 2.14 3/4, the greatest producing son of Bingen, and the foal that Panella had the spring of 1900 was Saddle Mac by Peter the Great. She was the first of his get to appear in public and was the unbeaten three-year-old champion of 1903, when she won all her starts close with the Kentucky Futurity, earning \$22,000 and being sold for \$20,000 that fall. When the Old Glory catalogue of 1903 was issued Peter the Great was one of the assignment of 25 from the Forbes farm.

Strange to say the bidding and prices offered were a tremendous disappointment and finally Peter the Great was knocked down to Peter Duryea and W. E. D. Stokes of New York City, owners of Patchen Wiles Farm, Lexington, Kentucky. They were almost forced into buying him by an editor of a Chicago horse paper who was a passionate admirer of Peter the Great. It would take pages to describe what happened after that but in brief we may say that he had 9 performers in the 200 list and that 131 of his descendants entered that list.

Another remarkable thing about Peter the Great was that when he was 21 years old in February, 1916, he was sold to Stoughton A. Fletcher of Laurel Hill Farm, Indianapolis, Indiana, for \$50,000.

and Mr. Fletcher made money out of the purchase. Locally we have many descendants of Peter the Great. There are hundreds of trotters and pacers in the Maritimes carrying his blood.

S. Thane Belyea, Fredericton, N. B., continues picking the right horse in the "What Horse Is This" contest which is featured in The Harness Horse of Harrisburg weekly. The week before last it was Flower Direct 2.00 3/4 that was one of the best pacers in the years 1911 to 1916. She headed such stars as Directum I, 1.58 3/4, Single G. 1.58 1/2, Frank Bogash, Jr. 1.59 1/4 and other notables. Two that she could not head were William 1.58 12 and Napoleon Direct 1.59 3/4. Pop Geers' great pacer. In six campaigns of 58 races, many of them that went four and five heats, she won 36, was second 10 times, third eight times and fourth twice. Our friend Thane must have a great memory for horses to be able to week after week be one of those who recognize the right trotter or pacer.

We have received a note from Harvey Cormier, well known driver who campaigned through Quebec last year and now has a stable at Rimouski, Que., which he is training for the coming season. Harvey was the winner of the Macdonald Briar trophy at the Old Home Week, Charlottetown, in 1951 and made many friends while he was training and racing here.

Ponce de Leon Raceway, St. Augustine, Florida, the million dollar harness horse track that was built in 45 days has hung up another new record. Silver Melody 2.01, driven by Ward

Stroom and owned by the Harrison & Shields Stable, Pittsburgh, Pa., passed to a win in 2.05 2/5. It was the first start of the year for the five-year-old Silver King stallion which in two seasons won 31 dashes and over \$14,000. He equalled his record when he won at Ponce de Leon but set up an all time record for an early race meeting over a half-mile track.

An ad for Calumet Fingo 3, 2.04 that some years ago was owned in Chatham, N. B., and is now at C. T. Black's farm, Berryville, Virginia, states that in 1952 his get won 117 dashes and \$81,622. The best horse he sired in the Maritimes was Colonel Dan 2.05 2/5 and is being prepared for another season.

Quite a number of Calumet Fingo's best performers have been trained, raced and given their records by Earle Avery who is the farm trainer and driver. Among those are the two-year-old Uhlens 2.07 3/5, Piney Fingo 2.09 and Bert Fingo 2.10 1/5 and such three-year-olds as Sal Fingo 3, 2.06 4/5, Patty Fingo 3, 2.06 2/5, Sturdy Jimmy 3, 2.07, etc. All the above records were made over half-mile tracks.

Dr. F. W. Christopher, 16 Carvey Road East, Watertown, Mass., that very kindly remembered us with a roster of the harness horses in training at Pinehurst, N. C. and written on it is: "This will give you an idea of the large number of harness horses in training here. They include the Newport Stock Farm stable with 26 head, the Franklyn Safford Stable with 46, the Joseph Cook Stable with 10, the Don Miller Stable with 13, the E. P. Cray Stable with 14, the Albert M. Jones Stable with 25, the S. A. Wathen and Son Stable, Fort Fairfield, Me. Stable with 18, the Bill Flemming Stable with 12 and a number of other smaller stables. S. A. Wathen & Son are training several horses owned by other parties this season and they also have quite a number of their own breeding sired by their stallion Mighty H. 2.04 and out of their own brood mares. The Wathen stable has been one of the best managed stables, also one of those that every year makes a good showing.

The 10th annual spring auction at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., will be held May 5th and 6th and as usual they have a great many trotters and pacers many of them ready to race for the money. This auction sale is well managed and has a splendid auctioneer and of course an excellent track and grounds to show horses. Anyone thinking of buying a good prospect to race in the Maritimes

Ladies' Curling Club
The annual meeting of the Charlottetown Ladies' Curling Club will be held in the form of a dinner meeting at the Queen Hotel, Thursday, April 23rd at 7:30 p.m. All active and associate members are asked to reserve the date and attend the meeting.
Lillian M. Duchemin, Secretary.

should not overlook it. We were delighted to receive a picture of Dr. George Sheppard's five weeks old foal that is creating so much interest in Mount Stewart and vicinity. He is sired by Argot Pointer 2.07 and his dam is Pitch O'Dale by Playdale 2.04 1/2. We referred to him and his wonderful markings in this column a few weeks ago and we did not overplay his uniqueness in the description. If he turns out to be a good trotter or pacer he will certainly catch the eye of the crowds when he appears on the race track.

Robert Empe who is training horses at Saratoga Raceway, has what he believes is an improvement on the leather hoppers which have been the equipment of pacers for as long as we can remember. His hoppers are fashioned out of aluminum cable and plastic and he has applied for a patent on his invention. He was prompted to do this when his pacing mare broke a hopple in a race at Saratoga last season. The Empe hoppers weigh 2 1/2 lbs. a set or roughly from 1 1/2 to 2 pounds less than those made of leather. Six sets are already in use at Saratoga and elsewhere getting a good trout and if they prove a success there is no doubt that Mr. Empe will make money out of them.

The latest from California is the cheap stable, Joe O'Brien head trainer, plans on starting the racing season at Bay Meadows meet which is just outside of San Francisco and will be on in the near future. Joe hasn't got along as far in the speed line with his two-year-olds and three-year-olds as the trainers in Florida or Pinehurst, but from what we can learn they are all showing well and are sound, keen and improving with each workout. Interesting to our people here is the fact that Leading Way, a two-year-old chestnut gelding by King's Counsel 1.58 1/2, dam, Alcyone 2.08 1/4, has been a mile in 2:30 with the "last eighth in 15 3/5 seconds. Many will remember Alcyone when she raced for the owner of Count P. C. McCormac and at one time held the pacing record for the Covehead track. Mr. Camp is still adding to his horse holdings and has recently purchased three brood mares with fast records and excellent breeding. A number of foals have arrived at the ranch and altogether his harness horse holdings number in the vicinity of 60.

The United States Trotting Association passed a rule that horses over fifteen years of age cannot be raced over its tracks. The French Trotting Association has gone one better and passed a rule to bar 10-year and older horses from racing beginning in 1954. With the start of the 1953 season the limit will be down to nine years for all but the international races with a value exceeding 500,000 francs. This rule is meant to fit the situation in Paris where the tremendous number of horses makes it necessary at times to start as many as 35 or more horses in a race in order to accommodate all who enter. Night racing got under way for the first time in Europe at Vincennes, France, on April 4th, with 17 programs scheduled so far. Will it ever hit England—we guess not—the runners can't perform under the lights—they are too temperamental and trotters and pacers are few and far between.

The handsome stallion Time Table 2.03 by Abbedale 2.01 1/4, will make a short season in the stud at Willard Kelly's stable, Southport. He is an exceptionally well bred horse, his sire being one of the world's greatest and his dam is the dam of other very fast pacers besides Time Table. Taking all who enter through the Year Book we notice that in 1946 he won the pacing derby at Quebec City in 2.07 1/4, 2.06 1/4, 2.06 3/4 and a couple of weeks later won the \$1,000 five mile pace in 12.10 1/2. That year he was 19 times first to the wire and at the end of the season was credited with \$13,517. He has continued racing well ever since but is now arrived at the age when he should be given an opportunity to continue the Abbedale speedline.

France Barry of Cape Tormentine, N. B., paid a brief visit to the city yesterday and was warmly greeted by horsemen friends at the race track and elsewhere. Frank is an ardent hockey fan so he also took in the hockey match last night. He said that Harley Harrison has as usual a good stable that he will have ready for the early meetings at Truro. It includes Hedgewood Chief 2.06 2/5, Headway 3, 2.06 3/5 and Dr. J. A. Chips, a four-year-old pacer imported from Ontario, all owned by James Given, Halifax. For F. B. Mitton of Moncton he has Symbol Majesty 2.15 1/5, that raced so well for Harley last year winning 11 firsts, 6 seconds and 4 thirds, and for Frank Ryder of Moncton, the two-year-old pacer Rita Federal by Feder 2.01 1/2 and for Mr. Taylor of Moncton Peter Federal, another pacer by Federal.

The Little Brown Colt
One day in June, Came a little brown foal, Whose spindly legs were out of tune. He finally grappled, and rolled around. Until on those four legs, he found. He could stand. Then in no time 'at all. He was prancing and rolling all around. His master was kind, gentle and fair, And his very thought was the foal's welfare. That he might survive, and some future day, "Face" his way in the "Bright

Hunter's Corner

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Geese were moving at intervals all evening and just as evening waned, 6.30 to be exact, a gunshot sounded in another sector about a mile distant. There was a great outcry among the geese following the shot. I had debated with myself earlier in the afternoon as to which feeding ground of the two I'd patronize with my presence but I guessed wrong. Maybe better luck next time. There are so many places where geese feed this spring that this guessing game is getting me down... its worse than playing Casino.

It's a shame that gunners cannot be satisfied with a good goose hunting period last fall. The birds they are shooting now are geese that have run the gauntlet of both Canadian and American guns and are now on their way north to rear their young. A goose shot now, if it happens to be one from a mated pair, may mean as many as 8 wildgeese less this coming October. Geese after the 7th of July are in a brood and 5 is a quite common number.

Here is a case of what I mean. On Friday morning April 3rd at 9 o'clock a pair of geese left the mouth of Mill Creek, Pownal Bay and flew inland in a line that would take them to the rear of the Village Green farms or the Mount Albion farms further on. They were large mature geese with the heavy honk of old timers. At 9:30 a.m. the old gander returned. Observers could hear his lonely, lost mate call before he dove in sight. He alighted out in the middle of the Bay and called for two hours steady. After this he took a wide circle over the farmland adjoining the Bay and returned to the water. Two days later he was still searching for his mate who by this time was probably browning in the poachers oven.

Here was a hunter who could have killed 8 geese in one shot and there is a possibility he didn't. Under a new master kind and good. But the wonderful dream of a man is dead. And the little brown colt lives on instead.

Lights' of the raceway. But God had other plans and so. This kind master was called to go. So the little brown colt is now. Under a new master kind and good. But the wonderful dream of a man is dead. And the little brown colt lives on instead. —Contributed.

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