

Backstretch

(Continued from page 8)

certainly have a very fine-looking group of young ladies, with two handsome young men standing with them. Sitting down is the editor, Robert Hackett, a friend of the writer and a very popular harness horse writer.

ROUGH WEATHER

Rockingham Park, which had its earliest opening on April 3rd, is successfully defying blizzards, and unseasonable weather, at times, to carry on regardless of the conditions.

They have been making some very fast times, too. On Thursday night, April 9th, Watchim's Ollie won the "D" Trot in 2:12-3-5; she is a nine-year-old daughter of Watchim 2:07½, which took a record of 2:11 as a seven-year-old, and she is owned by the well known horseman, George Reed of Gorham, Maine.

In the 5th race on the above program, the DD Pace, purse \$700, Ripover was first, Lakeside George second, and the Maritime bred pacer, Dr. J.A. was third, time 2:12. The second fastest mile of the night was in the "C" Pace, that Gay Harmony won in 2:09-4-5; the purse for that one was \$900.

The feature race of the night was the Berlin Pace, purse \$1,350, and it was won by Miss Silver Chief, and curiously enough the time was only 2:11-2-5. The fastest time of the night was in the eight race on the program, the "B" Trot, which was won by Duckie's Pride in 2:09-2-5. Duckie's Pride is certainly starting out in great style this season; last year she made only 6 starts and had no firsts, one second and one third. But prior to that she had taken a mark of 2:06-2-5. Duckie's Pride is certainly starting out in great style this season; last year she made only 6 starts and had no firsts, one second and one third. But prior to that she had taken a mark of 2:06-1-5 the year previously, as a five-year-old.

LARGEST CROWD

Many of our readers will re-

member the Wednesday afternoon of August 17, 1945, when the Charlottetown track was host to the largest gathering of spectators that ever entered its gates. They overflowed on the track, they were all over the centerfield, and the starter had to warn the spectators to leave enough room for the horses to score!

CHANGE HANDS

The main event was the Free-For-All Trot, which had five starters. The first heat was won by Christine Budlong, owned by George Brookins of Kensington, P.E.I., with Watchim second, time 2:09. In the second heat, Christine Budlong made the race, then made to the three-quarters, then clear a break, and Watchim had clear sailing to the wire, with Sunny-meade 2, Christine Budlong 3, Lee McKillop 4 and Lee Brewer 5. Time 2:07 1-2; a new track trotting record that still stands. The third heat was also won by Watchim in 2:09 3-4, with Sunny-meade 2, Christine Budlong 3, Lee McKillop 5 and Lee Brewer 4. Watchim was driven by Billy Hood, who drove him in all his campaigns until he was retired.

That was a wonderful race meeting. Here are a few of the other winners: The four-year-old trot and pace, purse \$568, Colonel Dan, 4-2-1-1, Nell Kalmuck, 6-1-2-2, Lela Budlong 1-3-4-3 six other starters, times 2:17½, 2:17½, 2:17½ and 2:18. Colonel Dan was owned by Jenkins Bros., Chatham, N.B., and Nell Kalmuck by Willard Kelly, Charlottetown. Lela Budlong was owned by C.H. Horton, Murray River, P.E.I.

The 2:16 trot and pace, purse \$550, Muriel Hanover 6-1-3-1, Coleen Scott 1-3-5-2, Symbol Harry 3-6-1-3, six other starters, times 2:11, 2:12½, 2:12 and 2:15½. Muriel Hanover owned by Charles Livingston, Winchester, Mass. Coleen Scott owned by W.D. Stewart, New Glasgow, N.S., and Symbol Harry by Cormier and LeBlanc, Moncton, N.B.

Classified Trot, purse \$500, Christine Budlong 1-1-2, Tracey Hanover 2-2-1, Lee McKillop 3-3-3, Marjorie Hanover 5-4-4, Hillside Scott 4-5-5, times 2:12½, 2:13 and 2:10½. Christine Budlong owned by George Brookins, Kensington, P.

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E.I. and Tracey Hanover by John Scott, Halifax.

The 2:25 pace, first division, purse \$500, was won by Shirley H. Temple in three straight heats best time 2:16½. She was owned by Lt. Col. J.P. Hooper, Charlottetown.

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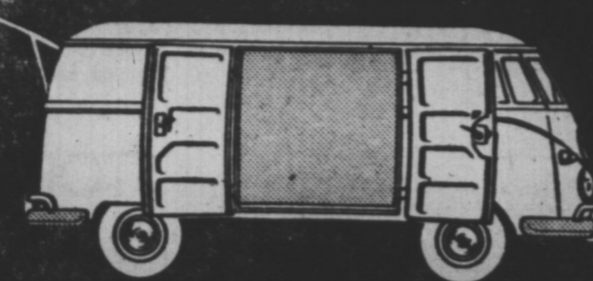
Now, let us take a look at sunny Anita track in California, where, what will probably end up as the greatest harness racing meeting of all time, is in progress. There, on April 1st, the first world record of 1959 was set by Plantation Chief when he won the "April Fool Pace" in 1:58 to equal Frisco Creed's mark

for aged geldings. It was the sixth two-minute mile of the season. And on April 4th, W.D. Direct stepped the seventh mile in 1:58 3-5, equalling Widower Creeds season's mark for pacing stallions. The biggest stake for trotters raced at this California track this season was won by Lumber Along, driven by Eddie Wheeler, in 2:01 3-5, and he received the largest part of the \$17,775 purse.

Joe O'Brien did not enter any of the Camp Stable horses at this meeting, but on April 5th he won the "C" pace with the three-year-old Hawthorne in 2:02 4-5. He does not belong to the Camp stable, but very probably he will be campaigned by Joe this season, and if so, you can look forward to him to take a record of better than two minutes.

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