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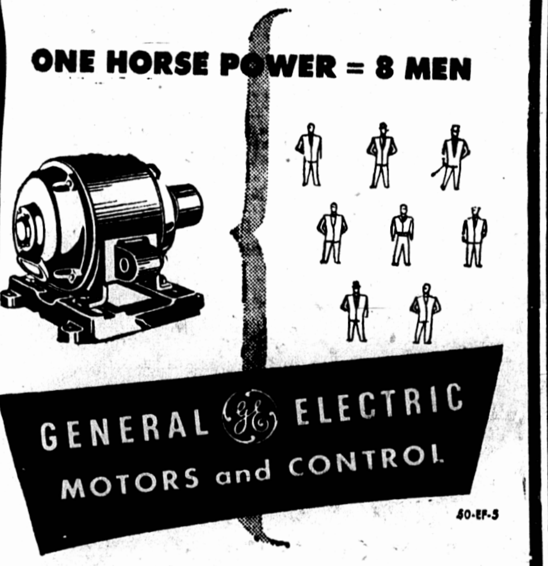

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Hunters Corner

(Continued from Page 6)

trace of fat and their flesh had a strong marshy flavour.

In sharp contrast the geese bagged by the writer this fall were in prime flesh and tops as table birds fat and flavoursome. This condition also applied, with one or two exceptions, to geese reported upon by other lucky goose hunters. There was a cause for this gratifying state of affairs. Here in this province we were blessed with a record crop of all kinds of grains both in respect to kernels and straw.

• • •

The 3 day hurricane just prior to general harvesting operations was the cause of thousands upon thousands of heads of plump, well filled wheat oats and barley being left on the ground. This factor contributed towards the lower goose kill this fall, despite the number of birds present. The flocks didn't have to patronize any particular field. If, upon piloting his charges to some particular field, the old gander in charge of the flock didn't like the look of a "stool" of decoys that had been set out in his absence or got suspicious of certain changes in the landscape, he simply set his charges down in a neighbouring stubble. In most any field they choose a flock could fill themselves up to the white throat patch in twenty minutes and not have to walk over twenty yards.

• • •

Another point in favour of the honker is the number of young farm boys, and in many instances the farmers themselves, that have developed a yen for a goose dinner. They kept the flocks on the move with the result they seldom got into the habit of frequenting the same stubble field more then once.. twice at the most. Many a hopeful group of hunters got set out in a stubble field with decoys all arranged before the first streaks of dawn lightened the east and would then wait for hours and wonder why the geese didn't come for breakfast. Later they discovered that some 'crawler' had taken a long range shot the evening before.

• • •

After all is said and done it was the natural craftiness of the geese that saved a lot of them from winding up in the roasting pan this past fall. There is no doubt about it but many flocks got wise to the wooden decoys. A set had to be good and arranged properly and the blind a masterpiece of camouflage otherwise it was time wasted and sleep lost. I am referring of course to flocks coming in after daylight. It was easier to fool the flock leader in the half hour preceeding a November dawn when the departing night threw a mystic shroud over the landscape and the decoys, a blurred formation in black and white, were screened from minute inspection by the retreating predawn shadows.

• • •

Many wise old ganders did not leave the safety of salt water until day broke sharp and clear. Sometimes as late as ten or eleven O'Clock. Those wise campaigners were content with one fill up on grain. Rather then make a second flight over enemy territory they gleaned a portion of their food from off the eel grass beds. A wild goose fattened on grain and eel grass makes for a table bird par excellence. I know whereof I speak. I can visualize yet a 10 pound 2 oz goose browned on a platter, fat and tender with the legs ready to break from the body with their own weight, and emitting an aroma that only such a wild goose can impart. I had a double thrill from this goose. Once when I picked it out of a flock of approx. 150 that went out of their way to wing high over the decoys and again when I picked up the carving knife and let my belt out a couple of notches.

• • •

This columnist has no regrets over the success of the past goose season. Last year it was one lone honker. For year before that it was zero. This fall it was four with nothing to be desired in respect to their condition.. all were prime birds.

The Kid and I shot over our own 'rig' this fall. It costs money to acquire a set-up of decoys that will fool the wise old flock leaders in the clear light of day but it pays off in the end. The size of our bag was limited by the time available. Luck also plays a major part in goose hunting. One may have all the time he desires at his disposal but if the cards are stacked against him the going is tough.

• • •

My partner and I had a thrill on our last morning out that was potent enough to last us out all winter. Imagine three massive squadrons of geese, a full one hundred and fifty birds, sweeping in over the blind from behind in full throated chorus.. long necks outstretched... powerful black wings beating in unison—broad beamed white breasts clear against a blue sky... the spine tingling suspense of waiting and then the terse command: "Take 'em"....

Caught in the spell of the moment I misjudged their height and speed. As I back-pedalled out of the blind the first squadron was already sweeping over head. I was off balance when the 2nd formation crowded in on the tails of the 1st and shot feet behind the goose I picked for a target. I like to have a few seconds to get on an incoming shot.

• • •

The second barrel got under a goose in the last line as it climbed for altitude on my right. I saw her give a sharp kick but still carry on with the flock without further outward sign of being in distress. Twenty yeards out she suddenly collapsed in mid-air and came down out of control. As my brief feeling of disappointment changed to elation I happened to glance toward my left rear and spotted a mound of black and white lying on the stubble. In surprise I queried: "Where did that goose come from?" The Kid's face was wreathed in smiles as he answered: "That's mine, Pop?" Its memories like that which linger on long after one's hunting days are over.

Back Stretch

(Continued from Page 6)

think there is a finer sporting fraternity anywhere in the world than is to be found in P.E.I. I have enjoyed the racing immensely and the night racing at Charlottetown is a picture I will carry with me the rest of my life. I was very much disappointed that the race meet at Summerside July 1st was rained out, because I am quite sure it would have been a grand meeting and drawn a large attendance.

"On the 18th of November I attended the Dufferin races in Toronto. The weather was ideal and the racing very close even though the time made was not fast. I felt that at Dufferin track there is a lot more jockeying for positions in the first half of the mile races and then they see where the contending horses are and they alone seem to fight it out in the finish. That kind of racing reminds me very much of bicycle racing which is jockeying for positions and then a lively sprint by two individuals to see who the winner is. To get away from this they finally had to give prizes for each lap or for the fastest lap in the race.

I enclose some results of the races and a photo showing Projectile winning in a photo finish. It certainly was a close one." The summaries which our friend Robert has sent us have been carefully looked over and we note among the drivers such notables as Jimmie Cruise who has piloted some of the fastest pacers on the Grand Circuit, also many others whose names are familiar to all of our readers. Regarding the time made at Toronto, it must be remembered that the track is quite heavy and in the fall months often very deep in mud and one can never judge the capacity of a trotter or pacer by the time he makes in a race there, that is not until the track freezes up and gets real hard.

The passing of Dr. Hugh M. Parshall of Urbana, Ohio, while it did not come as a shock to friends and horsemen who knew that his state of health had not been of the best for some time, yet it was to so many a very sad happening. Dr. Parshall was born on a farm in Ohio and from his earliest days he was around horses and liked them. At an early age he graduated from a veterinary school with the idea of practising that vocation but instead he took up the training and racing of trotters and pacers and very quickly showed that he had made no mistake in the choice of a calling. He was not long in securing the confidence of men of means and well-bred colts were given him to break, train and race, so that in a few years the harness horse world was aware that a new star in the drivers firmament had arrived.

It was the era of giants of the sulky — Walter Cox, Ed Geers, Tommy Murphy, Lon MacDonald, Sep Palin, Dick McMahon and many others, yet Dr. Parshall secured his full mead of victories and commenced to set up world's records. It was he who gave the somewhat notional Jane Azoff her record of 1.59½ and some time after that she was sold to Charles Horton of Murray River and placed in the hands of Willard Kelly, and raced consistently on Maritime tracks for several years, later going into the brood mare ranks. She is the dam of Wayzoff 3, 2.03 3/5.

His success with colts and the intuition he displayed in picking the good ones is evidenced by the fact that among them we can recall Chief Counsel, that he gave a three-year-old record of 1.57¾ and Mc I Win 3, 1.59¾, that he won 15 heats out of 16 with, Blackstone, a full brother of Chief Counsel, was given a record of 2.00 as a three-year-old and afterwards a record of 1.59½, and another full brother King's Counsel, a record of 2.00. King's Counsel went on to take a record of 1.58 and is now a successful sire. Others that he raced in 2.00 were Clever Hanover 1.59½; J. E. Vonian 1.59¾; Spintell 1.58¾; Fearless Peter 3, 2.00, Lou Hal 2.00, Napoleon Grant 2.00, Single Stine 2.00 (dam of Little Brown G. 2.06 3/5), a total of 13 in the two-minute list. In addition he marked 13 in 2.02 or better and 8 in 2.04 or better.

The past couple of years he has been more or less on the sidelines but he did not cease to make selections and at the Indiana State Fair he was back of Scotch Hal and won with him. It was his only start this season. Other recent selections that he made were the top three year-olds, Lusty's Song 3, 2.02, Hambletonian stake winner of this year, and world's champion two-year-old trotter with a record of 2.02 1/5, and Dudley Hanover 3, 2.00, winner of the Little Brown Jug Stake. Dr. Parshall was only 52 years of age and is survived by a widow and three sons, also his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Parshall of Hillsboro, Ohio, a sister and two brothers. While not very many of our local horsemen have met the Doctor, yet Willard Kelly and others of us who have known him more or less intimately, will join with thousands of others in regret at his early passing.

Bowling

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