

BACK STRETCH

er, Chester Smith. Along in June he was placed in the hands of James (Roach) MacGregor and very quickly attention was drawn to him because of his bursts of extraordinary speed. That year he took part in 26 races, won 11, was three times second and three times third with money earnings of \$1,736, which left him eligible to the 2.22 pace.

It was his campaign in Quebec City that really drew the attention of horsemen all over to him. On the night of Oct. 17 he won the BB pace in Quebec City in 2:06 1-5, 2:08 2-5. Conditions were by no means favorable and the time made by him stamped him as a future star.

Many offers were made to Mr. Perry but he wisely decided not to sell. Then came his great campaign the past season, which started with his winning at Summerside on July 23 in 2:06, setting up a new track record. He also won the free-for-all in Charlottetown and other points, his total wins being 21 out of 27 starts, with his last 14 straight wins. But most creditable of all was his meeting and defeating the fastest pacers in Quebec City on Sept. 8 and winning and setting up a new track record there of 2:02 3-5.

Hundreds of the best horses in Canada and many from the United States have been raced over that famous speedway but it remained for Andrew Perry's pacer to set the time mark at a figure that may possibly stand there for a long, long time unless lowered by him. Incidentally the purse at Quebec was \$12,000.

He also won at Richlieu, Montreal and then at Blue Bonnets he met the fastest pacers in Canada in a \$7,500 stake and won both dashes with driver MacGregor looking over his shoulder at the struggling field behind. The time announced 2:03 3-5, a new track record.

By the way, Blue Bonnets was built for the runners and when the runners lost their popularity was made into a half-mile harness race track and is fast becoming one of the popular sport centres in the Dominion.

Our congratulations to our friend Andrew Perry, who was always one of our best supporters when we were connected with the Exhibition Association and who has been through the years a splendid harness horse enthusiast, and also to Mrs. Perry who so capably assisted Andrew in all his endeavors. And we mustn't forget the fact that it was James MacGregor who made Bay State Pat into a reliable race horse and whose patience, kindness and avoidance of the whip and ability to balance him with the right shoes and other equipment and also the nerve and skill to drive him — these were the real reasons, aside from his breeding and ancestry, that made him worth the amount the buyer paid for him.

The following dispatch from Del-

aware, Ohio, appeared in a New York paper last week: "Sanders Russell, 55, of Stevenson, Ala., today was listed in good condition at Jane M. Case Hospital. The harness horse driver was injured yesterday when a two-year-old filly he was driving went down and he was thrown over the trotter's head. He suffered a skull fracture and broken collar bone in the spill during the third race at the Grand Circuit meeting here."

It is Mr. Russell that has Richard Logue of Sydney horses in his stable and it was Mr. Logue's two-year-old trotter, trained by Mr. Russell, that broke two world records at Delaware last week, previous to the accident referred to. The writer is well acquainted with Mr. Russell and spent a few days at his home in 1932 and we deeply regret the unfortunate occurrence above.

One of the most popular harness racing features in the United States is the Little Brown Jug, a stake for three-year-old pacers that is raced annually over the half-mile track at Delaware, Ohio. Many of our friends will remember the movie shown by our friend Frank Acorn last year's Little Brown Jug and can recall the enormous crowd that witnessed it. This year it was raced on Sept. 22 and drew one of the largest attendances on record. The purse was \$66,683. The winner was a black colt owned by John Froehlich of Brookville, New York, a potato farmer. His Quick Chief, as the first horse he ever bought and all season he had been outstanding and in this, the crucial race of his career, he was a winner over the fastest three-year-old pacers in the world. His first mile was in 2:00 1-5, just a fifth of a second slower than the world's record, and he won the third and final heat in 2:00 2-5. He was driven by Billy Haughton — who prior to this year did practically all his racing over Roosevelt and Yonkers half-mile tracks.

This year he has had stake horses and has been a winner or contender in a number of trotting and pacing stakes raced on Grand Circuit tracks. The 40,000 fans made Quick Chief a favorite and in the first heat he showed his heels to Knight Chief by four lengths. The race was in two divisions because of so many starters. The second division was won by Dottie's Pick, a daughter of the sensational sire Adios, and she was driven by Del Miller. She won her division by half a length in two minutes, a world's record for filly pacers on a half-mile track and she also tied the world's record for three-year-old colts, set by Tar Heel in the 1951 Little Brown Jug. The first five finishers in each of the divisions met in the final heat and this is the way they placed; Quick Chief, Dottie's Pick, Meadow Ace, Rapid Chief, Sea Eagle, King Creed Convoir, Knight Chief, Cheetah Goose, and Reed's Knight. Time 2:00, as mentioned before. Later, no doubt, the surprising Mr. Acorn will probably have the movie of this great race for showing here.

The famous Kentucky trots are

on this week and part of next week at Lexington, Ky. It is a gathering of harness clans that has no equal. The Red Oval, as the track is called, holds more world's records than any other two harness horse tracks. The meeting extends over ten days and those days and the days preceding them are about the busiest that can be found anywhere in the sports world. The days prior to the races and during the races morning hours are spent visiting the various farms from which come many of the greatest trotters and pacers in the world.

Another attraction at Lexington is the sales at night where hundreds of yearlings that have been schooled for a couple of months previous are brought into the ring and the wealthiest owners in the sport and their trainers compete in bids to carry off what are considered the best prospects.

Then again it is a meeting of old friends. Horsemen from all over Canada and the United States go there not only to see the sport of harness racing, to catch a little bit of the excitement of the bidding at the sales, but also to clasp the hand of a friend. Thinking back over the years and following this meeting as we do, there never has seemed to be any disappointment with it. Almost every year there is a record of more broken, or some sensational performance that makes Lexington continue to hold its place as the most popular racetrack gathering spot.

The oldest stake of the trotting world is the Lexington Futurity for two-year-old trotters. It had its start in 1875 and the purse was \$200. The winner was Oddfellow. The time of the mile was 2:44 1-4. The present record is Main McElwyn's back in 1929, time 2:02 3-4. Last year it was won by Butch Hanover, owned by Sol Camp and driven by Joe O'Brien. The second heat in 2:02 4-5 was just a shade slower than the record. However, probably the greatest performance of all at Lexington last year was the winning of the Cinnamon Ranch two-year-old trot by Scott Frost in 2:04 2-5, 2:00, a world's record of course and something that may never be duplicated.

We understand that Bay State Pat, 2:02 3-5, recently purchased from Andrew Perry, Summerside by Jean Jacques Beaudoin of Montreal will be a starter in the Free-for-all pace, purse \$5,000 at Yonkers Raceway, N.Y. tonight. And that he will also start in the \$15,000 invitational pace to be raced at Blue Bonnets Track, Montreal on Oct. 15.

Earlier in these notes we mentioned about the world's record performances made in the three-year-old pace at Delaware, Ohio, and now we find that on Sept. 21, Galopone, that has been playing second fiddle to Scott Frost, 2:00, in their several meetings this season has shown surprising form by winning the Old Oaken Bucket, three-year-old trotters purse, \$6,000, and at the same time shattering three record marks. His first heat was in 2:02 2-5, a new world's record over a half-mile track for three-year-old trotters and his second heat in 2:01 2-5 was another new one. The previous world's record for three-year-old trotters over a half-mile track was 2:03 held by Titan Hanover and Galo-

phone's two heats with a total of 4:03 4-5, also shattered the two-world mark of 4:05, set by Titan Hanover. He was driven by Wayne Smart, who has been remarkably successful with trotters and pacers this season. Galopone had in the early part of the season been driven by Billy Haughton. He is owned by William T. Maybury of Maine.

Now the horsemen are all looking forward to the meeting in the Kentucky Futurity at Lexington, Ky., Oct. 6 in which Scott Frost and Galopone will be pitted against each other and provided conditions are right, a new world's record will certainly be made.

Racing has been going on at six Maritime tracks the past week, with the exception of a few cancellations due to the weather. Last Saturday night at Moncton Speedway Morelle Woody, owned by Kennedy and Michael of Charlottetown and driven by Mr. Kennedy, stepped the fastest mile in the eighth dash, 2:11 3-5. With the same field in the fifth dash the three-year-old Barcelona Hanover, driven by Roy Creamer, was the winner in 2:11 4-5, a new record for this wonderful little pacing machine. She was second to Morelle Woody in the eighth dash. Princess H. (Eter) was 2:4. In the first and fourth dashes the trotter Angel Star (J. Gougen) was 1, 6. Connie French (C. Smith) 6. 1. Island Star (Cormier) 2, 2. Time 2:15, 2:18 2-5. The second race was won by Madeline Smart (Bernard). Royal Budlong (Cormier) 2. Time 2:18 2-5. In the third and sixth races Jean B. Lee (S. Kennedy) was 1, 4. Mason's 49 (O'Brien) 5. 1. Time 2:15 2-5, 2:14 3-5. The seventh race was won by Mac Federal (H. Cormier) and the old reliable, C. Albert Budlong (MacAllister) was 2. Famous Boy (E. Smith) 3. Time 2:17.

They had a regular record-breaking "speed-fest" at Truro last Saturday night, with no less than five horses taking new marks. Clayton MacLeod distinguished himself by driving three of the winners. In race one the old reliable Nell Kalmuck (Harrison) nosed out the trotter Patrick Budlong (G. Turner). Time 2:14 4-5. In race two Scottish Wick (Williams) won, Jolly Mark (Furness) 2. Time 2:17. In races three and six Josedale Clansman (D. Turner) was 1, 7. Jerry's Nightmare (LeBlanc) was 5, 1. Barbara Ann Queen (C. Smith) 2, 3. Time 2:09, 2:10 3-5. Races four and seven were won by David G. owned by G.E. MacLeod, Westville, N.S. and driven by Clayton MacLeod. Time 2:13 2-5, 2:13 1-5. Both were new records. The trotter Scottish Wick in winning race two also took a new record. And in race five Money Worth, owned and driven by Charles Nelson of Truro was the winner in 2:17 2-5, a new record. Mr. Price (Whelan) 2.

Winners at Sackville last Saturday night were Richard (Ratchford) 1, 1. Eddie Hoosier (S. Walker) 2. 1. Time 2:12, 2:14 4-5. The winner is owned by Ernie Smith of Sydney. In class A trot and pace Gahagan (Shaw) was 1, 2. Royal

Bank (Given) 8, 1. Time 2:15 3-5, 2:15. Gahagan is owned by Dr. George Bishop, Lexington, Ky. Royal Bank by Jimmy Given, Halifax. In the BB Pace Suffolk Chief (E. Moreside) was 1. Just Rita (Cruickshank) 2. Time 2:17 4-5. The winner is owned by Cmdr. G. H. Buntin, Charlottetown. Class A trot and pace was won by Guy Tucker (Killam) with 1, 1. Gracie Lou (S. Walker) 2, 6. Esso (E. Moreside) 6, 2. Time 2:17 1-5, 2:16 1-5. The winning owner is B.J. Mitten, Moncton. Race eight was won by Signal Hill (R. Leighton), Hi Gal (L. Walker) 2. Time 2:22 3-5. And race nine was won by Jenny Belfast (L. Walker) Pepper Shaker (N. Campbell) 2. Time 2:28.

HUNTERS' CORNER

an awful chance sending his dog out into this morass of bottomless mud. Lead rice stalks and roots, lying on the pond was barred ducks would soon get wise. They'd come in high over the encircling ring of gunners and then sit on their tails and come down... and stay regardless of the shooting on shore.

There's a heavy concentration of ducks awaiting the opening gun but many inland pot-holes, dams and lakes have been vacated weeks ago. Many possibly would have left on their own accord, as the tidal flats beckon as October nears, but the majority took the hint when the air vibrated from shotgun blasts. Many hunters are taking a chance on a bet they'll return in the morning. Some will win their bets, the majority will lose.

Its a fore-gone conclusion there'll be a lot of disappointed duck hunters when the sun sinks to rest tomorrow night. The Hun and pheasant boys are in a different category. If they have the ambition to get out and walk and the art of holding the shotgun straight they'll have their choice of white or dark meat for Sunday's dinner. I was shooting with a chap once. He hadn't much to say when he kept missing Huns but when he failed to ruffe the feathers on a goose at twenty yards he vowed the barrels were crooked. That's a common alibi. I remember once the Southport farmer tried to talk me into believing the barrels of his Ithica were sprung. It was just one of those days that come to us all at times.

There has been quite a bit of pre-season duck shooting this season of the hit-and-run variety mostly but a few made a real job while they were at it apparently working on the assumption one might as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb. Sometimes I wonder what would happen on the opening morning if a shot hadn't been fired at ducks all season and no one shot before the legal opening time... one half hour before sunrise. I really don't have to wonder... the slaughter of ducks would be terrible.

This columnist is convinced that a spot of pre-season shooting, not

what he wants to happen, saves an awful lot of ducks from flying blind into danger on the opening morning. Here is a case in point: On a Saturday evening, three weeks before the season was due to open a party of gunners lined up at the north end of Pisiquid Pond between the Adam's Hill path and Donnelly's Creek. A stiff sou' wester was blowing and they stuck it out for two hours. Informants tell me there was a solid black canopy of ducks over the pond while others were flying everywhere in all directions.

Between five thousand and eight thousand black ducks were educated in one quick lesson. After that evening they didn't come in to the Pond at tree-top level... no sir just about one and a half gunshots high.

How some of those close-mouthed duck hunters fool themselves at times. My pillow wasn't wet with tears that night... I was chucking in my sleep. Duck hunters like farmers just reap what they sow.

It won't be long now. About 2:00 a.m. cars roaring out Granton Street will wake me and I'll try to creep out of bed so carefully without disturbing my better half and end up by falling over her. I hope to be on hand for another session of watching car lights shimmer on distant hillsides and waiting for the dawn breeze to caress my cheek. It will be another story and memory tomorrow night... how good or how bad we can only guess.

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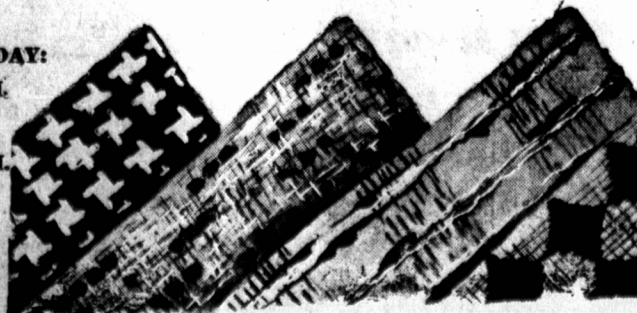
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