

Back Stretch

Continued from page 6
Friends are looking forward to his return home in the near future. In the meantime Bob Hamilton's stable is being well looked after by Bert Harper of Charlottetown. The horses are Victory Belle 2:15 2-5, Lucky Spencer 2:10 1-4 and Bill Stiles' filly Lealand's Pride 2:21. Frank McAlduff of Alberton, who had such a successful campaign with the John D. Forbes stable—particularly at Foxboro—last season, has now taken over Bob Brown's string and will train and drive them this season. He has as his assistant Bobby Troy. Great things are expected of the pacer Skeller 2:07, purchased by Bob at the Harrisburg sale last fall. Trainers everywhere speak well of this horse that was only beaten at his record last season. Then of course, there are the former winners, Indiana Boy 2:05 1-2, Chris McElwain 2:12 3-5 and a partnership horse, Honor's High Jinx 2:20 3-5, Milton Brodie being the other partner.

Brighton 2:11 3-5, Mr. McGee 2:13 3-5 and the two-year-old filly Margie Frisco, that was purchased at the Lexington sale last fall. Henry did a mighty fine job with Brighton last year and a particularly good one of Mr. McGee and was well up in the list of leading Maritime drivers. In charge of his horse is the very capable Walter Bustard.
"One of the Maritimes top drivers last season was Roy Barnett, who has been a familiar figure on our race tracks for many years and has driven some very fast record horses. This year he is training the Charles Rose stable consisting of Heinie Henley 2:08, Jo-Jo Spencer 2:10 and the green pacer mare Just Peggy Clegg. Jimmie Smith has the largest stable at Lealand's Park with N. D. Hal 2:05, Carr Shark 2:06, Heinie Strong 2:09 1-2, Bonnie H. 2:10, Diana Dale 2:15 3-5, Polly Mite, Sudden Mary 2:11 1-5, Federal's Girl, Miss Federal, Linda Belle, Jock Martin 2:12 2-5, Susie Spirit, George Spirit, Free Spirit 2:05 2-5, Dominion D., Jeff Budlong and Golden Mac. Al Langille has Royal Jr. 2:01 1-2, Pure Gold 2:07 3-5, Morris Direct 2:13 Beck. Dale 2:16 2-5, Frankie Carr has the Wallace Nevils stable consisting of Sailor Hanover 2:10, Holliver Anna 2:10 3-4, Betty Ellis 2:17 and the green trotting colt, Hero's Child."

driven by Henry Thomas, and Major Hal, driven by Earle Avery, were tied for the fastest mile paced over Yonkers Raceway this season — 2:05 3-5. Quite a history of Earle's racing career was given over the radio from Yonkers Raceway the evening of his win but they neglected to mention that Earle still holds the track pacing record at Charlottetown of 2:05 1-3 with Bud Wenger, made in 1936.
This afternoon will wind up the Western Harness race meeting at Santa Anita, Cal., which started on Friday, March 14th with 42 afternoons racing. The results have been very gratifying to the proprietors and the distribution of money has been the largest since these races were inaugurated. The fastest trotters and pacers in the world competed and new records were taken by a great number. On Monday or probably before that, horses will be moving out to race tracks in the east, the top ones will go to Yonkers and then on to Roosevelt Raceway, which opens on May 28th. Some of the stables may go direct to Roosevelt and not do any racing until opening date there. The greater interest taken this year has been largely due to better quality horses that have raced at Santa Anita and the splendid publicity given through the newspapers, the Daily Racing Form and over the radio. Publicity is a necessity with any type of sport

It is something that harness horse racing did not have before the opening of the night racing plants some years ago. Proprietors of these were smart business men who knew how to capture the interest of the people when they had something worthwhile to give them in the line of entertainment. It was the owners of the thoroughbred or runners that had been smartest in publicity up until recently but as we mentioned, trotters and pacers are coming into their own now.
The 12 top pacers in the United States that will be competing in the Free-For-Alls are credited with a million dollars in money won as follows: Solicitor 3, 1.57%, \$31,236; Tar Heel 3, 1.57%, \$119,146; Good Time 1.57%, \$208,493; Dudley Hanover 4, 1.58%, \$92,062; Prince Jay 1.58%, \$73,195; Royal Blackstone 1.58%, \$84,695; H. D. Hanover 3, 1.59%, \$33,883; Thomas B. Scot 1.59%, \$24,058; Fermin Hanover 3, 1.59%, \$56,924; Danville Direct 1.59%, \$15,488; Dr. Stanton 2:00, \$183,200; Irish Hal 3, 2.01%, \$80,000.
It is reported that Heber Sweeney has purchased the pacer Canada Direct 2:06 1/4, a ten year old bay horse by the Ontario sire Peter Brooke Jr. Last year he was one of the busiest pacers out, with 75 starts in which he was 14 times first, 18 times second and 15 times third, picked up \$7,375, making his total winning at the end of the season \$32,810. His owner has raced him summer and winter and last winter and this spring he was on the go every week at Dufferin Park, Toronto, so should be in good shape for the early meetings. Mr. Sweeney while at Roosevelt Raceway last year, learned of the appointment of Johnnie Simpson as driver and manager of Hanover Shoe Farms racing stable and because of that connection several of Mr. Simpson's clients decided to dispose of young prospects in training. Two of these were Deerfield and Mighty Gallon, both two-year-old pacers. They have been kept on the go all winter and as Mr. Sweeney's track is one of the earliest in the Maritimes no doubt they are stepping miles better than 2:30 right now. If so they will be ready soon to make the trek to the early race meetings which Mr. Sweeney indicated some time ago was in his plans for this season.

Hunters Corner

Continued from page 6
It was at this moment I spotted the big owl sitting on a dead tree snapping his bill in rage at being robbed of a nice dinner. He didn't snap long. The Winchester 10 gauge let daylight through him quicker than it takes to tell it. I have no use for a horned owl. I'd walk 10 miles for the chance of a shot at one.
Among our game birds the woodcock is the first to commence housekeeping. Early in April the Chief Forester with the Department of Industry and Natural Resources found a nest on the ground with four large eggs in it. The nest was situated in a swampy area and he figured the eggs were laid by a pheasant. On May 5 he went to have another look to satisfy his curiosity and found that the eggs had hatched, at least three of them had. It was a woodcock's nest. The dud egg was

still in the nest but the mother bird had moved her young to a new nest about two feet from the original one. Woodcock have been known to carry their young, gripped between their feet one at a time, for considerable distances when food becomes scarce or danger threatens. The woodcock is one of our most mysterious and least known game birds. They'll arrive in March when the swamps and woodlands are still frost and snow bound. As soon as the first patch of bare ground shows on a slope with a southern exposure they'll start to build a nest. Rustling food to keep three or four young alive and growing at this season of the year must be quite a chore but Mother Nature looks after her children in a way that oftentimes puzzles us.
amazement . . . the duck was

headless and neckless. Where the neck should have been was a V-shaped socket.
I jumped to conclusions and

was inclined to blame the dog for the deed. Old Jack sensed that I was displeased and dropped his head and lowered his plume-like

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Mr. Sweeney's career with the horses spans a period of some 40 years and during that time he has owned over 100 trotters and pacers. Among the pacers best remembered is Toll Gate 2:00 1/4, that he set up a track pacing record with at Charlottetown in 1934 of 2:06. The greatest trotter that we can remember him owning was John Dean 2:08 1/4, that set up track records in Nova Scotia when he was in his best form. Last year Heber had Hedgewood Chief 4, 2:06%. He won with him at Truro on June 4th, stepping the half mile in 1:02 1/2, and again at Truro and at Charlottetown July 14th, he won a heat in the 2:14 class, the summary of which was, Lock Hanover (C. O'Brien) 2-1-3; Hedgewood Chief (Sweeney) 3-4-1; Argot Pointer (H. Willis) 1-3-5; Colonel Looker (Kennedy) 5-2-2; Miss Knox (O'Meara) 6-5-4; Worthy Ermine (Moreside) 7-7-6; Josedale Clipper (McGregor) 4-6-dr. Time, 2:10%, 2:10%, 2:10%.

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