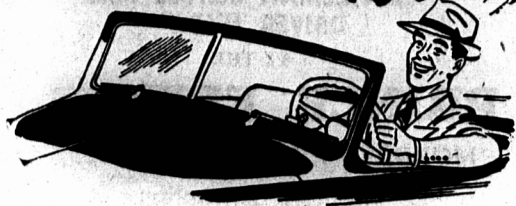


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Back Stretch

(Continued from Page 6)

total at the end of this week is expected to be over forty. The following Halifax owned horses are now stabled there—the Bunny Walker stable with Merle Direct, Doctor L. B., Seven Up Direct, Faye W., Helen J. Direct and Lew McKinney; Angle Allen with Gay Law and Aubrey Budlong; Balbo Gould with O. K. Volo, Luther Hanover, Vella Gratton and Proletor's Boy, and Frank Daniels with Starlight Eclipse, Jerry Gratton, Buck P. C. Gratton and Christopher Stout.

On the cover of the May 10th Harness Horse appears photos of races at Santa Anita and on page three is the following explanation of the photos — Santa Anita Speedway—Proximity (Hodgins) equals the track trotting record of 2:01 1-5 in her season's debut. The eight year old daughter of Proletor defeating Egan Hanover 4, 1:59 in Saturday's \$2,500 Free-For-All. — A pair of Nova Scotians romp to victory Canadian style, as Brewer's Gallon and Joe O'Brien win their third start from Phalanx (Cobb). The Bill Gallon stallion, owned by B. C. Cruickshank of Halifax, N.S., slashed his mark to 2:03 with speed in reserve. — Joe O'Brien scores with Robert Morris in tight win, lowering the Volomite pacer's record to 2:01 3-5 in a neck score from Ebonita (Shively), Dale Brewer (Kent) and Concord Master (Fitzpatrick) fourth. The event was a qualifying trial for the \$7,500 Burbank Pace and O'Brien also coped the other division with Lana Direct in 2:01 4-5.

Almost every day horses are moving into stalls at the Charlottetown track, the latest is the stable of Earl Semple with Mary Merc, Jessie Direct 2nd and Hilda Mac. Other stables there are Jiggy Arbins, Dr. R. F. Semple's, Sam Kennedy's, Teddy Weir's, Lorne and Willard Kelly's and Len O'Meara's. The combined Kelly stables will consist of about ten, Teddy Weir expects to have ten and like Moreside will move in next week with eight. George Thompson of Summerside is also expected down the first of the week with Babe Britton 2:10 3-5. Besides the above some twenty or thirty horses owned by various parties in Charlottetown and surrounding parts are being trained at the Exhibition oval.

The beautiful pacing mare Mary Merk 2:08 3-5 has been staked extensively through the state of Maine and after racing in a few events here will be taken to the Pine Tree State where she should take a low record. Mary Merk won ten dashes last season and shared honors with Worthy Ermine as having paced the fastest mile by a mare in the Maritimes—2:08 3-5. Her owners, Earl Semple and Harold Cudmore, have had several good offers for Mary but are going to give her a real chance in the big company.

We thank George MacDonald, Boston, for a clipping from the Sunday Globe which shows a photo of a bad crash at Yonkers Raceway a week ago. Two trotters, Moses 2:03 and Almee Scott 2:04 1-2 were down. The third horse was also down but managed to get up. Sulkies were smashed and drivers injured—certainly a bad affair.

Secretary D. Stuart Campbell sends us particulars of the June 5th races to be held at the Tantram Race Track, Sackville, N. B. 2:21 class, purse \$300; 2:27 class, purse \$150; 2:29 class, purse \$150. Heats are half mile and the races on the three-heat plan with trotters allowed three seconds over pacers. Entries close June 1st at midnight. Entrance fee three per cent from money winners only.

Ed Binneweg in his harness racing column in a New York paper writes — "I like the new starting system employed by Steve Phillips but wonder whether it will cause some tight jams at Roosevelt unless Steve can get the car out of the way a little quicker. Right now they blame the slowness of the car to leave the bad footing at Yonkers. I believe that Yonkers Raceway is laid out about 90 feet longer with 40 feet taken off at each turn to bring the back stretch closer. This gives the horse an extra 100 feet from the starting line to the first turn going away." — Our comment on the above is that the longer straightaway and the sharper turn is probably what caused the bad

accident mentioned above. You cannot take a short turn on high with safety.

Jack Curnow, sports writer for the San Francisco Examiner, has the following big boost for Joe O'Brien. — "The sulky brigade swings into action again today at Santa Anita, the week being highlighted by a series of stake races which will bring out the cream of the harness racing crop tuning up for the \$50,000 Golden West Pace and Golden West Trot. Meanwhile the two buck before following the sulkies are fast making Joe O'Brien the guy to bet on in the big races. The little Canadian has been scoring with terrific regularity when the chips are down. While it's not too hard to gain the sentiment of the public, it's a much tougher chore to gain praise from the guys against whom you compete, especially the veterans.

But O'Brien has drawn high praise from another driver over the week end, a man not given to passing out laudatory comments freely. Harry Whitney, driver of Chris Spencer and among the Grand Circuit's most famous reinsmen, told friends he regarded Joe O'Brien as the best young driver of current times. Whitney went on to say he believes one of the best drivers he ever witnessed was when little Joe piloted Robert Morris to victory last Saturday against a top field. In case you missed that race, O'Brien brought Robert Morris from far back in the pack to nail Ebonita at the wire for a nose win in the \$7500 Burbank Pace.

O'Brien, with a small public stable, has been cracking the charmed circle with regularity. Seldom an odds-on favorite, O'Brien's horses have been spilling the figure horses with regularity. He has a knack of getting the most out of his horses and getting it when it counts. O'Brien has been driving in the U. S. only since 1947, having gotten his schooling in Canada where "they race for blood" rather than money. But in his first year of U. S. racing he drove 94 winners to get with 44 he had in Canada before crossing the border. That made him the top dash winner of the year. In 1948 and 1949 he was among the top winners, and it looks as though he'll be right up there again this season the way he's going at Santa Anita. In 24 starts he has 9 wins, 2 seconds and 2 thirds with money winnings of \$9656.25, not bad considering his small stable.

O'Brien has four straight victories with Brewer's Gallon, a horse he brought out of the Canadian bullrings to Hollywood Park last year for B. C. Cruickshank of Halifax. While the horse had a record of 12 wins in 14 Canadian starts, it had earned but \$1101, which gives one a pretty fair idea of the purses. It wound up the season with 14 wins and 3 thirds and \$2701 in earnings. Last winter O'Brien trained the horse at Del Mar, Nov. 5, he's as sound as a dollar and his best winning time has been 2:03 flat going away. Four victories have earned the horse \$2925."

Mrs. Joe O'Brien in a letter to her father, James Flood of this city, writes — "Barbara Ann Scott was out to the track this morning. She is in the Ice Capades here. They took some pictures of her and Brewer's Gallon and I will send one to you when they are published. I wasn't there at the time so didn't get a chance to meet her. Joe says she is one of the nicest people he ever met. She went right in the stall with Brewer's Gallon and is very fond of horses."

Hunters Corner

(Continued from Page 6)

this way all by yourself?" In a confidential tone I replied: "It pays to travel alone when you are looking for a goose." His face was suddenly wreathed in smiles. "Oh, you're looking for a goose, are you?" I'll tell you where you can get a goose, and proceeded to direct me. "See that house on the hill... they're going in the fields a mile south of that." He squinted at the sky. "It's a good goose day; you shouldn't have any trouble getting a goose this afternoon." I said goodbye, parked the car in an out-of-the-way place and started off across the fields.

Later when I told my wife about it, she said: "If that isn't a man for you. Go to Church in the morn-

ing and tell lies in the afternoon". I tried to explain that they were white lies but she insisted all lies were the same. Oh well, if one doesn't fight fire with fire sometimes, one doesn't get very far.

A hundred or more geese in a large stubble field took flight before I was within a quarter mile of it. I skirted the field. Footprints led to it from the north, south and east. A clever blind at the edge of a hayrick hadn't been used recently, neither had a fox hole dug in a straw pile at the south end of the stubble seen much action. Geese steer clear of such dangerous spots when coming in to a field especially if disturbed previously.

Along the bare edge on the west side a cleverly camouflaged goose pit had been dug replete with shell for sitting on and a deep foot trench. Spruce branches placed on end around the edge blended with the short bushes already there and one would almost stumble into it unless looking closely. Scattered flocks of geese were on the move and I decided to move farther south. A mile and a half brought me to the Mayfield road.

From a hill top I looked down on the beach at Cawnpoke. No summer bathers dotted its bleak shoreline. Miles off shore heavy ice gleamed white on the cold blue waters of the Gulf. The morning looked bleak for the lobster fishermen. A sudden chill reminded me that the sun was westerling... evening was near. I thought of my wife's parting words: "Try and get back in time for me to go to Church." It was three miles to the car. My afternoon patrol looked washed up.

My course took me past the goose pit. I was maybe twenty or twenty-five yards from it when I heard geese honking. A flock of 17 came in from behind, swung in to the wind and then sitting on their tails and with big black feet spread at a ridiculous angle dropped swiftly for a landing. They aimed for a point to my left and almost in front of the pit but spotted me squatted on my hunkers and flared off.

I wasted no time and continued on past the pit. I glanced at the sitting shelf but it was bare. I walked past a few feet but something made me turn for a closer inspection... the spruce bows in front were bent over at a sharp angle. I knew then that someone had been in it since I saw it last. A wedge shaped piece of cloth, like a bit of brown sacking, in the foot trench caught my eye. It wasn't till

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I jumped into the pit that I spotted the gunner huddled in the foot trench with his gun under him and the spruce bows arched over him like a canopy.
He came to life when I nudged him and said, "Hey, wake up". He had a wild look in his eye but I don't know which of us got the biggest surprise. He had little to say. Asked what he was doing there he stated simply: "I got hungry and came looking for a goose". He had spotted me after the geese flurried and didn't take long to

act. He sure was a quick thinker and came near getting away with it.
I relieved him of his double hammerless Belgian shotgun. He was a man 31 years of age but he made a disconsolate figure as he slumped off across the field with his brown overcoat hanging to his heels and his rubber boots going thump, clunk in the way hip rubber boots have. For a moment I felt a twinge of pity as I visualized a blackeyed woman blasting him with a burst of machine-gun

French when he got home. Then I thought of the single wildgoose which they would be laid... and the sympathetic side of my heart closed with a snap. That's the chance gunners take when they go hunting wildgeese in the spring.
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The Neighbors



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