

Self-Preservation Idea As Old As Time Itself

The instinct of self preservation as old as time itself and as common as the dodo bird, is a fact which we know about the thoughts of our wild life with special reference to our bird life. Take for instance a brood of black ducks surprised on a patch of water. As we watch the little ducks, in their coats of yellow, taxing frantically at the water with tiny wings flapping frantically, we can only think of the thoughts that flash through their little brains. I have heard the opinion expressed that if a series of frantic automatic motions. How can one be?

An incident that occurred on Officers Service Pond at Suffern, N.Y. this morning (Sunday) furnishes food for thought. On Sunday morning I received a call from Bruce MacCott requesting that I call on a very young duck, and his wife were fishing on Saturday afternoon when I heard a series of frantic motions, barely over an inch long, flapping toward the water with tiny wings. From the boat it stopped on a patch of floating weeds. It was a state of exhaustion with its wings spread out on the grass. It was still uttering faint sounds as much as to say: "Hurry, hurry, hurry; hurry and save me!"

RIGHT AS ARROW
Mrs. Wonnacott held her cupped hand over the side of the boat and called to it. It came to straight as an arrow and landed down in the palm of her hand. She made it comfortable in the boat for the afternoon. Then they were ready to take it home. They watched it all afternoon but there was no sign of its mother. When I got to their home I found it on a patch in their living room, sitting contentedly on a hot water bottle wrapped in a soft blanket. The water was kept at a heat and it had a light sweater over it. It was peeping to itself like a chick under mother.

It wasn't a duck but a Grebe. Grebe is a cross between a duck and a hen. It has a head as large as a hen's and a neck with semi-webbed feet as far back as they'll go. It has no tail. At least I don't figure a little tuft of feathers a half inch long may be classed as a tail. I wondered at it being still alive. Mrs. Wonnacott told me she fed it corn meal mush and bread sops. It was so tiny she used an eye dropper for a spoon. It was a beautiful downy little creature slightly over four inches long with thread like strips of yellow and gold running from the head to where its tail should be. I estimated its age as being under a week.

QUITE CHIPPER
I called up Monday morning by phone fully expecting to learn that it had died. I was informed it was quite chipper and that she had to get up twice during the night to feed it and heat up the water in the bottle. When the water bottle got cold it let them know in no uncertain terms. The most amazing thing was that it would run to her when she called. She would place it on the floor in the middle of the room. When she'd place her hand on the floor and call it would run and crawl into her cupped palm where it would close its eyes and go to sleep. I told Mrs. Wonnacott not to raise her hopes too high for keeping it alive as I considered it a miracle of miracles for such an event to occur. I phoned again Tuesday afternoon and heard the sad news. She answered two calls through the night and warmed up its foster mother and in the morning it appeared as spry as it ever was but went out very quickly during the day. I would say acute indigestion was the cause of death. It would be impossible to secure enough natural food for such a little mid-gut even if one was sure of what it fed on in its baby stage. She told me over the phone she felt like crying and I wouldn't be surprised if she shed a few tears as there were tears in her voice. Anyway no one could have made a better try.

As to what threw the little mite into such a panic of fear in the first instance we can only guess. My own private thought is that a big trout made a try for a full course dinner in one gulp. They'll catch swimming frogs so why should they draw the line at a feathered morsel. Grebes are quite common on most mill ponds. They can dive in nothing flat and for that reason have been called Hell Divers. They construct a raft of weeds and rushes for a nest and lay 3 or 4 eggs half as

come the last half of their miles very fast and they also have a quick burst of speed that enables them to get the jump on their opponents. I hope that True Hal colts will turn out as good—Lady Lou Hal shows lots of promise.

"Harvest Queen, a 4-year-old bay mare owned by Newcastle Racing Stables of Newcastle N. B., took a maiden mark of 2.16 3/5 here last night (Tuesday) and driver Lindon gave Scotch Feather, a 4-year-old by Scottish Pense 1.57 4/5, dam Jessie Mite 2.02 1/2, a new record of 2.11 in the second heat of the Junior Free For All. He is owned by Newcastle Racing Stables. Dan's Pal took the opening heat of the Junior Free For All in 2.12 3/5. Ola Hal, a 3-year-old N. D. Hal, dam, Ola Budlong owned by Valley Stables of East Florenceville and driven by Clayton Killam, lowered her record from 2.17 3/5 to 2.14. Other winners that night were Sir Walter Brook in 2.14 4/5, Jay's Hope in 2.17 and Home-stretch Ade in 2.13 1/5.—Thanks Dow for the above news.

WALTER DALE PACE
The Walter Dale Memorial

Backstretch

(Continued from page 8)

This 4-year-old black mare is by Time Table 2.03 that a few years ago in Saint John won his 10th race and a trophy was presented to owner Pierce Downey. The dam of Millie's Time was the famous trotter Millie Kalmuck, that took a record of 2.12 and was owned and driven by the late Willard Kelly. She was very popular wherever she started.

ACTIVE AT TRURO

Our friend George Turner of Dartmouth was very active at Truro Raceway on Wednesday night. In races 1 and 4 his Pepper Boy finished 1-5, Debra H. (D. Pinkney) 5-1, Bud Henley, (M. Turner) 2-3, Lady Smart, Renaud 7-2, Time, 2.15, 2.13 2/5—a new record for Debra H., owned by Roy Weir, Truro. In races 2 and 6 Farscud, owned and driven by George Turner, 1-1, Haley's Alpha (Haley) 2-7, Czarina Volo (MacLeod) 3-2, Time 2.11 1/5, 2.11 4/5. In races 3 and 7 Impact (P. Pinkney) was 1-3, Yuta (Whalen) 2-1, Grand Miss Volo (Jabalee) 3-2, Time 2.10—the fastest of the night—2.12 1/5. Impact is owned by Mrs. Emma Mustacalis Truro, whose stable raced here a few years ago. Yuta is owned by Andrew Perry, Summerside. Our congratulations to owner Perry, driver Whalen and good old 12-year-old Yuta, that had so many of us cheering for her in her more youthful days. Taking a look at the Year book of 1954 we find that Yuta, 8, 2.09 by Kalmuck, made 29 starts, was 14 times first, 7 times second and 5 times third, or to put it another way, was 26 times first, second or third in all her starts. It is a record that is really rather extraordinary.

FASTEST MILE

"Lady Lou Hal, a 2-year-old pacing trotter by True Hal, dam Josedale Lady Lou stepped the fastest mile in the Maritimes by a 2-year-old Monday night at Fredericton, time 2.19. She is owned by W. A. Roberts and was driven by Sheldon "Buddy" Campbell. First heat she finished third to Hay's Hope and Bay State Joe in 2.17. Lady Lou's sire, True Hal, could well be one of the Maritimes' top sires. N. D. Hal, who is also by Hal Dale, is enjoying a wonderful record at Woodstock and vicinity, having sired such colts as Hal's Man 4:20.0 1/5, Hal's Mae 3:20.0 3/5, Hal Again 2:21.6 4/5, Hal's Gal 4:21.0 1/5, Kinmean 2:10.1 5 and quite a number of others with fast records. Breeders to N. D. Hal are having very good luck with Calumet Budlong mares. Hal's Man, Hal's Mae, Hal Again, Ola Hal and Andrew's Girl are all by N. D. Hal out of Calumet Budlong mares. The N. D. Hal colts show a lot of gameness and

SACKVILLE DOWNS

And here's a glance at Sackville Downs where large attendances is pleasing the management and providing excellent sport. On Wednesday night in races 1 and 4 Lela Clegg (L. Austin) was 1-3, Mickey Dale (Mauger) 2-4, Abner McGraw (J. Campbell) 3-2, Time 2.14 1/5—a new record for Lela—owned by Albert Arry, Halifax, 2.12 4/5. Katie Direct is owned by C. Belliveau, Dieppe. Races 3 and 7, Jet Master (L. Walker) 1-2, Jolley Lad (E. Smith) 5-1, Falcourt Heromine, (Mauger) 2-3, Miss Wilma Dale (MacGregor) 3-5, Mr. Rock (C. Smith) 4-4, Time, 2.09 4/5, 2.09 2/5. Jet Master is owned by J. and G. Stables, Halifax and Jolley Lad by Mrs. Keith Thomas, Halifax.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCE

A notable performance took place at Moncton Raceway last Tuesday night when Walter Rosecroft, driven by Roy Creamer, won dashes 5 and 8 in 2.06 1/5 and 2.06 3/5. The aggregate time of the two heats is one-fifth of a second faster than the two heats stepped by Flagman, driven by Roy Barnett at Chatham, July 1st. The times there were 2.06 4/5, 2.06 1/5. Both have the honor of the fastest mile stepped in the Maritimes this year as well—2.06 1/5. Second to Walter Rosecroft in both dashes was Abbeledon, Super Hal 3-4, Flagman 6-3, three other starters. In dashes 2 and 6 John Frederick was 1-2, Josedale Courier 3-1, Doctor J.D. 2-3, Bernie's Choice 4-4, four other starters. Time, 2.12 4/5 2.14 3/5.

And here's a letter from our good friend Dow Clowater of Fredericton with news of the recent performances at the Maritimes fastest speedway. We say that because the Maritime pacing record of 2.02 1/4 was set there by Walter Dale 2.00 3/4, Sept. 15, 1937. He was driven by Henry Clukey. The post-war pacing record is 2.06, set by Jerry's Nightmare 2.06, August 9, 1956 driven by C. MacLeod, and the trotting record is 2.07, set by Peter Pokey 2.06 1/2, Sept. 13, 1943, driven by Henry Clukey. . . .

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was won by Major's King, owned by C. F. Durely, Saint John, Hal's Man 2, Walter Rosecroft 3, Convoir 4, Flagman 5, Rainbow Clegg 6, Mr. Miller Abbe 7, Time, 2.09. The third heat was won by Walter Rosecroft, owned by B. McCoomb, Newcastle. Major's King 2, Convoir 3, Hal's Man 4, Mr. Miller Abbe 5, Flagman 6, Rainbow Clegg 7, Time, 2.08. Major's King, winner of the above race, is a 6-year-old pacer with a record of 2.04 taken on a mile track. He was formerly owned by Fred W. Mawhinney, Machias, Me. and his winnings at the end of 1957 were \$12,593 making him eligible to the 2.15 class.

The same night two fast miles were stepped in the 4th. and 8th. dashes, N. Volo (Lindon) being 1-5 and Hal's Mae (C. Killam) 2-1, six other starters. Time, 2.08 4/5, 2.08, the latter equalling the fastest time in the Walter Dale Memorial.

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AUG. 11 - 16 Old Home Week AUG. 11 - 16 ENTRIES CLOSE AUGUST 1st, 1958

Racing Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday Nights and Wednesday, Thursday Afternoons, With Tuesday, Friday Afternoons If Needed

NO. 1—THE HARRY O'BRIEN FREE FOR ALL PURSE \$1,600.00 2 Dashes at \$900.00 a Dash To be raced Monday Night—Entrance 3%—\$48.00 Declaration for this event Saturday, August 9th, at 2:00 p.m.	B PACE—3 DASHES \$300.00 A DASH PURSE \$900.00 3% to enter — Entrance \$27.00 H. L. Sear
NO. 2—COL. D. A. MacKINNON FREE FOR ALL PURSE \$2,000.00 2 Dashes at \$1,000.00 a Dash To be raced Friday—Entrance 3%—\$60.00 Producers Co-op	C PACE—3 DASHES AT \$250.00 A DASH PURSE \$750.00 3% to enter — Entrance \$22.00 Douglas Bros. & Jones
NO. 3—JUNIOR FREE FOR ALL CLASSIFIED PURSE \$1,800.00 3% to enter — 3 dashes at \$600.00 Entrance \$54.00	D PACE—3 DASHES AT \$225.25 A DASH PURSE \$675.00 3% to enter — Entrance \$20.00 Prowse Bros. Ltd.
NO. 4—FREE FOR ALL TROT PURSE \$1,300.00 3% to enter — 3 dashes at \$400.00 Entrance \$36.00	B TROT—3 DASHES AT \$300.00 A DASH PURSE \$900.00 3% to enter — Entrance \$27.00
NO. 5—THE DR. R. F. SEAMAN 3 YEAR OLD PACE PURSE \$750.00 3% to enter — 2 dashes at \$375.00 Entrance \$22.00	C TROT—3 DASHES \$250.00 A DASH PURSE \$750.00 3% to enter — Entrance \$22.00 Sterns Laundry
CONDITIONED CLASSIFIED PACES AND TROTS Burke Electric	D TROT—3 DASHES \$225.00 A DASH PURSE \$675.00 3% to enter — Entrance \$20.00
AA PACE & AA TROT PURSE \$1,300.00 3% to enter — 3 dashes at \$400.00 Entrance \$36.00 Hyndman & Company	GENERAL CONDITIONS In events No. 1-2-3-4-5, if divisions, divisions will be classified. All events to be three dashes, except No. 1-2-5, which will be raced two dashes. In the C Pace and D Pace, the management reserve the right to race either one or both of these events in two dashes if too many entries are received for these two classes and at the dash amount. Entries close August 1st when horses must be named. Any class not filling nominations may transfer to the next fastest class.
A PACE AND A TROT PURSE \$1,050.00 3% to enter — 3 dashes at \$350.00 Entrance \$31.00 Morton Dew Ltd.	

We have been classifying our horses here on the following basis, which will give you an idea as to how you may enter and where you will be classified for Old Home Week.

CONDITIONED

AA Pace & AA Trot 2.11-4 to 2.12-3	D Pace 2.16 to 2.19
A Pace & A Trot 2.12-4 to 2.13-4	B Trot 2.13 to 2.15
B Pace 2.14 to 2.14-4	C Trot 2.15-1 to 2.16-1
C PACE 2.15 to 2.15-4	D Trot 2.16-2 to 2.19

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