

### Back Stretch

severe illness he is very cheerful and likes to have horsemen friends visit him. We are all in hopes that Alex will be able to come out and see the horses train later on when the weather gets warmer.

Here's a letter from C. H. McGinley, Houlton, Maine. "Some of your readers may be interested to know that June Morning 2.04% has foaled a bay colt by Tar Heel 1.57% and has been bred back to the same horse. She has a beautiful black two-year-old colt by Norris Hanover 2.02% in training at Houlton and he is very promising and the owners, Simonson Bros. of Bridgewater, Maine, also have the best yearling filly by Norris Hanover out of June Morning at their farm. These colts are a little larger with heavier bone than you would expect from June Morning. Early Dawn 2.05% by Playdale 2.04%, has a yearling colt by Knight Dream 1.59 and I believe she was bred back to him. There are 26 horses in training at Houlton but there is still quite a bit of snow on the track. Charles Simonson asked me if I could find out for him the breeding of Possibility 2.02%. He raced in 1914-16. I wonder if you could supply the information?"

Possibility 2.02% was not registered as Standard. His sire was Newton Boy out of Pochantas by Pochantas Chief, grandam, Lady by Gerry Smith and was a foal of 1906. He was the horse that first made Sep Palin famous. Sep was a young Indiana horseman starting out his first campaign on a large scale and he made an almost clean sweep, winning 15 firsts with Possibility. From then on horses were turned over to Sep by leading owners and he became the world's greatest driver. In 1922 at Berea, Ohio, Monte Crow brought the pacing mare Miss Possibility by Possibility with other horses to Charlotetown and she was purchased from him by Power Bros. of this city and later mated to Kalmuck 2.15% and produced Miss Victoria 2.14, a grand little race mare. Miss Victoria was bred to Calumet Budlong 2.02% and June Morning was the result. June was sold as a three-year-old to George MacDonaid, Mermaid, who raced her and gave her a record of 2.10% on June 30, 1947, at Covehead, and then sold her to J. Henry Dewitt of Woodstock, who raced her with success and sold her for a long price to Simonson Bros. She is the fastest pacing mare ever bred in the Maritimes.

Yonkers Raceway, New York, opened the season last Monday night and their Spring meeting will run through to Saturday night, May 22, then the Summer meeting from August 16 to August 28 and the Fall meeting September 27 to November 15. The law calls for the harness racing season to close on that date. Two top drivers, Billy Haughton and Stanley Dancer, start the coming season in the familiar roles of defending title holders. Both have large stables at Yonkers and as usual will probably finish at the top or very close to it. Last year Haughton started 271 times and had 52 firsts. Dancer made 204 starts and finished 100 times among the first three—50 wins, 32 seconds, 18 thirds. Haughton is thirty years old and the youngest U.S. driving champion of all time. He has won the driving honors at Yonkers the last four years. With 52 wins, 63 seconds and 44 thirds he was actually in the money 55 percent of the time, while Stanley Dancer was there 49 percent of the time. Henry Glukey who is 66 years old, was in fourth place and Hugh Bell was runner up for the Yonkers money honors. The best night for favorites at Yonkers in 1953 was April 27 when six won. The worst night was August 26 when not a single favorite was first to the wire.

Among the older drivers that will be racing this season is John Dempsey, aged 82. It is Amillieu's

66th season and Dempsey's 69th. The season and Dempsey's 69th. The youngest driver of harness horses this season is Jackie Hogan of Marlborough, Mass., who is aged ten and began racing last January. He won eight quarter mile races on the ice at Derry, N. H.

Glancing over the records made by trotters and pacers at Yonkers Raceway we find that the four-year-old trotting mare Martha Doyle, driven by Joe O'Brien, holds the mark for three-year-old trotting colts with Darn Flashy time, 2.04%. Earle Avery holds the record for two-year-old trotting colts with Victory Mon 2.08.

In the early 90's John D. Rockefeller had a stable for his fast road horses at Cleveland Driving Park, Ohio. During the summer and early autumn months Sandy McLean was located there with them while the balance of the year they were in New York in a brick stable adjoining Robert Bonner's champions. One pleasant summer morning while Sandy was out on the track jogging a pair of horses a groom appeared at the blacksmith shop leading Bob Frost, owned by Mr. Rockefeller. Bob had brittle feet, a common fault with grey horses, and blacksmith Adams had a difficult task to keep him balanced for fast work. That particular morning Bob Frost was minus a front shoe and when he pulled it off he broke a portion of the shell of the hoof and it looked as if it would be impossible to reset it.

After examining the horse's foot blacksmith Adams told the groom to ask Sandy McLean, boss of the stable to take a look at the wreck before he did anything with it. After a careful examination the blacksmith believed that he could change the nail holes, make some change in the shoe and that it would stay put. Finally after a consultation that was as deliberate and grave as though it involved millions, they agreed on this procedure. Sandy McLean and his companion, who was a tall man dressed in black, watched the blacksmith point his nails carefully with the bevel to the outside and drive them slowly into the shattered hoof. As each of the seven nails held and was clinched they heaved a sigh of relief and after a little rasping Bob Frost was himself again. The tall man was so pleased with the work that he was soon busy going through his pockets to find something to reward the blacksmith with. Finding nothing but a small watch and a pocket knife he borrowed fifty cents from the groom and handed it to blacksmith Adams, who took a piece of chalk and made the usual stable charge of \$1.00 on the big slate hanging near the bellows. With a bow and good-morning Sandy McLean and his companion departed and as they walked towards the track someone asked the blacksmith who the tall man was, and he replied, John D. Rockefeller, the richest man in the world.

In the middle 1890's a yearling trotter contracted distemper. His condition became so hopeless that a veterinarian gave up on him and went away. George Ketchum, the trainer, kept the colt through the night. In the morning he handed a gun to a stablehand, told him to take the colt down the road somewhere and destroy him. About an hour later the boy returned, handed the gun with one empty cartridge in it to Ketchum and said, "The little fellow is gone." Three weeks later the boy reported for work leading the colt which was very weak and emaciated. "Cute little fellow," he said to Ketchum who just couldn't shoot him. Hid him away, doctored him and now he's all right, the distemper is cured.

Ketchum nursed the youngster carefully and he developed into a rugged horse. In 1900 he became the leading money earning trotter with \$13,250. In 1901 he was again on top with \$22,874 and in that

### Hunters' Corner

Good Friday morning would be a real treat.

I expect on the morrow I'll be moving about meeting old friends and some not so friendly. I have lost the net to cast a line when one cannot see the opposite bank of the pool and the worms stiffen while one is threading them on a hook. I like to relax while fishing and soak up sunshine and watch Nature's children work and play. There will be lots of stories on the rounds next week about happenings along streamside and there will be the one that got away and also the ones that didn't get away. I find myself wondering who will be top trout man tomorrow and from what water the champion will be landed.

There is a heavy flight of wild-geese this spring and the birds are pretty well scattered over the province. There are no heavy concentrations in any one spot. Black ducks still hold the spotlight and bid fair to break all records this spring. I observed the first big flock of robins today. It gave me

same year at the age of seven he trotted a mile in new world's record time of 2.02%. His name was Crescens and in 1902 he was sold to the Russian government for \$25,000. While training he was bred to a few mares and one of his get, George Crescens, came to this province and was owned by the late Frank Beals. He was trained and took a trotting record at Charlotetown Sept. 24th, 1913 of 2.24 driven by Dannie Steele.

We had the pleasure of a visit Wednesday from Frank McAliduff, noted trainer and driver who was co-driver with Myron MacArthur of the Jimmie Smith stable of Woodstock last year. Frank plans on leaving for Woodstock about May 1st.

W. Rupert Godfrey, Marshfield, left Thursday for Montreal where he will install his Photo Chart System which was so highly thought of last year at Blue Bonnets Raceway. Mr. Godfrey has the rights for this system for the Dominion of Canada and in the United States it is used by all the larger night racing plants such as Roosevelt, Yonkers, Maywood, etc.

Before leaving for Yonkers Raceway last week Billy Haughton worked the two-year-old pacing filly Princess Lorraine a mile in 2.13%. This is the record for the season at Ben White Raceway, Florida. Del Miller worked the trotter Way Ahead a mile in 2.17%, last quarter in .32%. We understand this is also the record for a two-year-old trotter in the south... Wendell Wathen's Chuck Volo 2.00% will probably be the heaviest staked pacer racing out of New England this season. He is expected to cut his present record by at least a second and will likely be retired to the stallion ranks in 1955... Lee McKinney, veteran trainer-driver of Westbrook, Maine, well known to many Maritimers, was severely injured in a matinee race at Pine Point, Maine, two weeks ago but is now on the road to wellville.



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a thrill to watch their red breasts and jaunty carriage as they hopped hither and yon in search of something to eat. They are real harbingers of spring.

Crows are very plentiful this season and pairs are already on location. The crow is beginning to

be rated as a top game bird. I have heard men say they take as much kick out of hunting crows as they do ducks. One thing is a certainty: they are tricky targets and if a gunner can connect on a darting, twisting crow with reasonable regularity he will not find a black duck too tough on the wing. One feels he has done some-

thing when he kills one. It is a wise old campaigner within range of his 12 gauge and sets him collapse in a cloud of black feathers. Its one nest robber less. One need never be afraid of shooting the last one... we'll always hear their "caa caa ca" floating earthward from the clear spring air. In reality we wouldn't desire it

underwise. Just a tip in closing to those who mail in skunk snouts... a portion of the white strip must be attached to the snout. Quite a number have reached the bounty office looking like small black washers. It looks as if the sender didn't take time to skin the nose off in the proper manner but

suppose it was with all ease of snout. No bounty is paid on such snouts and some senders have been disappointed. There is no excuse for not having a portion of a white strip attached. That has been the rule for the past 15 years and longer. This time next week we'll know how the boys made out on their first day with the trout.



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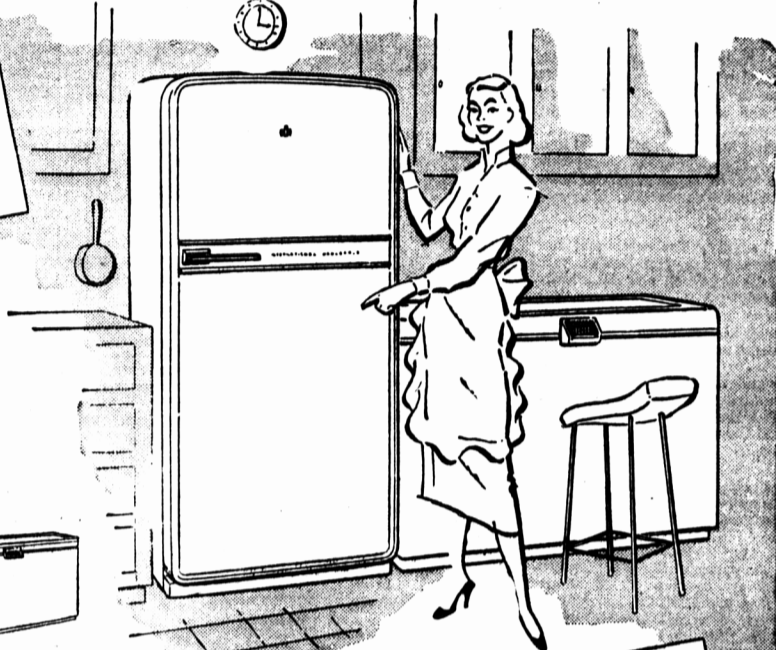
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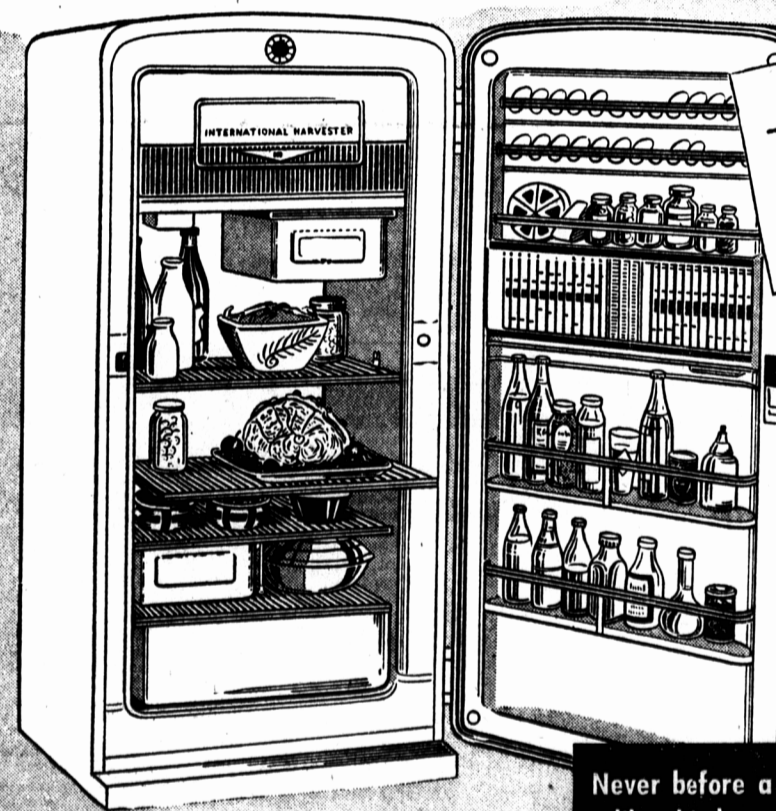
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