

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Dad Tells Story Of Joe O'Brien

BY NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

A CHAT I had with Harry O'Brien, Alberton a few weeks ago makes it much easier to understand the sensational triumphs of his son, Joe, who this week was proclaimed the top harness racing driver in the United States for 1961.

Joe was a wizard with horses from his youth, his dad told me proudly as I visited him with Frank Weeks, who has put me on the trail of so many good column items. It was just before Mr. O'Brien left for California to join his famous son for the winter months.

The son was 14 when his father bought for \$40, Ace Bailey, a colt his owner decided wasn't worth keeping, because of his gait. But the youngster soon proved the idea was wrong.

MR. O'BRIEN and his older sons, Claude and Lloyd, were down in Charlottetown with every available bit of usable racing equipment. But Joe patched up a stinky and set of harness, drove four miles to Elmsdale and took the first and third heats, after getting into a nasty spill in the second.

Two weeks later Joe won a race at Tignish with the same colt in 2:27, on a slow, sandy track.

I forget the details, but the youngster also beat his father and two brothers in a race at Myron MacArthur's track at Kensington, despite their combined efforts to contain him.

Joe always did have a way with horses, his dad recalled proudly. I am writing only about Joe now but his brother Lloyd who was killed in a car accident several years ago, was an outstanding horseman and so is Claude who is well known in contemporary Maritime racing circles.

He Won Before In 1956

AS HIS father proudly reminded me, Joe was leading U.S. driver in 1956 when he finished far ahead of his nearest competitor.

He's recognized by top American horsemen as one of the best in the country, and a recognized authority like Del Miller has termed him the best driver of colts in the world.

Judging from my talk with Mr. O'Brien and what Frank told me about him, I think the son must have a lot of his dad's traits. O'BRIEN SENIOR stole a horse from his father at 16, raced her at Elmsdale and won. "It's just as well I did, or I would have had to sleep that night in the stable," he told me as his eyes twinkled.

The veteran—he was 90 in December—has had an average of eight to 10 different horses each year since.

He built the Northam track and "won with Mack Yolo, the first heat ever raced under the lights in Canada."

He built other tracks at Moncton and Saint John and at some other places he couldn't recall at the time of our chat.

Grading Certificates Important

THIS NOTE is only for hog producers, but it could be important. Producers must keep their grading certificates from each shipment, and make their own application for federal deficiency payments on forms that will be available from the department of agriculture here.

No deficiency payments will be made on 1961 shipments and there may be none on this year's hogs. But unless the grading certificates are kept from each shipment so the hog raiser can apply in the proper manner, they will not be in a position to collect the payments, should the commercial price drop low enough this year to warrant payments.

This is new this year, but that's the way it's to be done, I was told yesterday by Stewart Eagles, senior livestock fieldman, Canada department of agriculture.

Angus Cattle Breeders Increase

I WAS impressed last week by the tremendous percentage increase in the number of Aberdeen Angus cattle breeders in this province.

I don't know how many they may have altogether, but Leo Melsaac, president of the association, told me at their annual meeting that they have 42 members, which is approximately seven times the six or seven members Arthur Roper told me they had a year ago.

Many of them are new breeders who got underway with stock purchased last year, and some of them only have a few cattle. But others have been established for some time, and have built up sizeable herds.

My neighbour, Dr. J.P. Lantz, has a large herd on his "High Pastures Farm" with something like 65 head at the present time.

REDVERSE STEWART, Hampshire is one who has been in the game a long time, I believe, and has had some outstanding success in the show ring.

Mr. Stewart had the grand champion steer at the Easter Beef Show and Sale several years ago. I've been wondering why more of the Angus cattle do not top the Easter show here, because they dominate carcass competitions at some of our biggest shows.

L.W. Roper said last week that the Angus cattle swept all of the prizes at Chicago last year, and they took pretty nearly all of the prizes at the Royal Winter Fair, he added.

Beef cattle quality has improved rapidly in Canada during the last 10 years, with 35 percent grading Choice or Red brand last year. This compares with only six percent 10 years ago.

Eagle Is Flat River Visitor

A LONE Eagle has been visiting Flat River regularly now for something like 20 years, I learned this week from Stewart Ross, M.L.A.

It's the same bird alright, he assured me, because he lights each year on the same branch of the same tree.

When he came first there was some fear of the big bird, who stands perhaps three and one-half feet in height, and has a tremendous wing spread.

There was some concern, for example, about the safety of a little neighbour girl who lived nearby, as she wended her way to school each morning and back home in the evening. But the little girl has since grown up and become a nurse, and the eagle still comes without, apparently, causing harm to anyone.

Czechs Protest Discrimination

PRAGUE (AP) — Czechoslovakia hockey officials formally protested Thursday what they called "political discrimination" against East Germany and offered to hold the world ice hockey championships in Czechoslovakia in place of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Both the protest and the offer were contained in telegrams sent to Bob Lebel of Montreal, president of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), and to J. F. (Bunny) Ahrens of London, vice-president.

The 1962 championships are scheduled for Colorado Springs, March 7-18.

Because of the crisis in Berlin over the building of the wall by the Communists, the Allied travel office in West Berlin has refused to give East Germans travel permits. This is part of a general NATO ban.

"It's too late to shift it to another country," said Walter Brown in New York Wednesday. Brown, a vice-president of the United States Amateur Hockey Association, said "it takes a year to organize this kind of a tournament."

3 ALTERNATE COUNTRIES: Brown pointed out that when the U.S. was awarded the

championships two years ago, Canada and West Germany were named the alternates.

"They also are NATO countries," said Brown, and it would be the same situation as we have now. We (North American hockey officials) have done every thing possible to get visas for the East German team. It doesn't look as though anything more can be done."

There had been reports that Czechoslovakia, whose team finished second to Canada in 1961, Russia, Sweden and The Netherlands might withdraw from the Colorado tournament because of the ban.

However the Czechs didn't mention withdrawal in their telegrams.

In Moscow, a spokesman for the Soviet Ice Hockey Federation said the Russians still are undecided whether to participate at Colorado Springs.

In Montreal, Lebel said Wednesday night he will appeal to the Allied travel office if he receives a formal complaint from the East Germans. And in East Berlin, the East Germany Hockey Federation said it had called Lebel protesting the ban

Saturday Minor Hockey Schedule

Following is the schedule for another busy day at Sports Arena, Saturday, for Charlottetown Minor Hockeyists:

7:00-7:30—Peewees BHS Lions vs QSS Rams.

7:30-8:00—Peewees QSS Jays vs Sherwood Orioles.

8:00-8:30—Peewees Pkldie, etc. Robins vs WKS Ducks.

8:30-9:00—Peewees Sherwood Cubs vs WKS Wolves.

9:00-9:30—Peewees Pkldie, etc. Parkers vs Sp Pk Springers.

9:30-10:00—Peewees PSS Hornets vs Sp Pk Swallows.

10:00-10:30—Peewees P S S Blackhawks vs QSS Cranes.

10:30-11:00—Peewees BHS Owls vs PSS Spitfires.

11:00-11:30—Paperwts Pkldie Terriers vs QSS Setters.

11:30-12:00—Paperwts QSS Loons vs QSS Ravens.

12:00-12:30—Paperwts Pkldie Terriers vs Sherwood Bulldogs.

12:30-1:00—Paperwts Sp Pk Elks vs QSS Otters.

1:00-1:30—Paperwts Sp Pk Blackhawks vs Sherwood Canaries.

5:00-5:30—Paperwts QSS Snipes vs WKS Redwings.

5:30-6:00—Paperwts QSS Larks vs Parkdale Sparrows.

6:00-6:30—Paperwts PSS Falcons vs QSS Bulldogs.

6:30-7:00—Paperwts WKS Colts vs PSS Tigers.

7:00-7:35—Bantams QCHS Owls vs Pkldie, etc Bluewings.

7:35-8:10—Bantams QCHS Gulls vs BHS Wrens.

8:10-8:45—Bantams BHS Hawks vs BHS Eagles.

8:45-9:20, Bantams — QCHS

Crows vs BHS Condors.

9:30-10:15—Midgets Canucks vs Rangers.

10:15-11:00—Midgets Arrows vs Darfs.

11:00-11:45—Midgets Bruins vs Leafs.

OFFICIALS
7:00-9:00 Ron Giggey, Ron Carmichael.

9:00-11:00 Les Barnes, Mike MacKinnon.

11:00-1:30 Bill Boyles, Len Gauthier.

5:00-7:00 Bob Crockett, Grant Crockett.

7:00-9:30 Gord Wellner, Knob Walsh, Murray Chandler.

9:30-11:45 Dennis Flanagan, Len Gauthier, Reg Proffitt.

4:30 P.M. ONLY

Ice 1—G. Wellner, Grace MacKay, Don Holden, Lois Hennessey, Addie MacDonald, Marj. Vessey, Don MacKay, Laurena Campbell.

Ice 2—Frank Hansen, Shirlee Carr, M. Blakeney, Norma Holden, D. O'Rourke, Ann Laurie, Ella Rananah, B. LePage.

Ice 3—L. Blakeney, Olga Davies, Marion Garrett, Ian Webster, Ralph Carr, Kay Douglas, Trudy Roper, Marion Shaw.

Ice 4—George Vessey, Olive MacDonald, Fran Rossiter, Jean Higgins, Doug Douglas, Jean MacLean, C. O'Rourke, Myra MacKinnon.

Ice 5—Jim Higgins, Veima Andrew, A.B. LePage, P. MacKay, Henry Douglas, I. Duffy, Art Garrett, Betty Lidstone.

Spares: Joyce Comdy, Alice Trainor, Helen MacDonald, Pat Wynne, Judy Morley, Ella Wood, Chris Phillips, Jean Ketch.

CURLING DRAW

commencing a duty bag limit or a shortening of the season.

The trend among the vast majority of present day hunters is to ignore fish and game regulations so why penalize the approximate 10 per cent whose natural instinct is to obey game laws that are implemented to assure sport afield for future generations of hunters. If the present downward trend continues the season on several species of game will close automatically—they'll not be there to hang on for some years yet but the handwriting is on the wall.

TRACKS IN SNOW
A few rabbits will make a lot of tracks and trails in a few nights and the picture may be misleading. On Wednesday evening Jan. 17 a short blizzard, that ended as quickly as it had begun, left approximately two inches of fresh tracking snow on the ground.

It was several degrees below zero on Thursday but there were several former top rabbit swamps I wanted to check. I figured there wasn't more than three rabbits in any of them. There was just one little pocket of tracks. There were more foxes than rabbits in the swamps in question and two legged hunters and their hounds had crisscrossed the swamps with beaten trails before the blizzard hit. I have questioned farmers as far south as Flat River and their report is that the general rabbit population is away down. A few favoured swamps sport an average population but they are few and miles apart. All were in agreement that foxes are very numerous this winter.

HEAVY TOLL
The majority of rabbit hun-

ters overlook the heavy pressure the bunnies are under from predators. Their troubles are not over with the close of the hunting season. Foxes and a great horned owl take a heavy toll on both adults and young while hawks, ravens and crows make deep inroads into the ranks of the young once they start out in life to forage for themselves. Too many hunters allow their charges free rein during the spring and summer months and this applies to setters, pointers, beagles and hounds as well as their half-bred progeny. In some schools districts the baying of dogs on the trail of game may be heard at almost any hour of the day or night.

Roaming dogs, house cats that have gone wild, or semi-wild, destroy more game than the total taken by hunters in the legal season. A farmer in the Alexandra district told me some years ago that he found five half grown rabbits in a pile at the foot of his lane one morning after a hound had made much all night.

His trail of destruction ended a few mornings later when he collided with a charge of No. 2 shot. This farmer wasn't exaggerating for I have come across such signs many times myself in swamps and woodlots in the spring and summer months. Ordinary house cats are natural hunters. When they have a bunch of kittens to look after they will lug home as many as five rabbits in a day. During my young days on the farm our cat had a family of kittens in an empty grain bin in our granary. One day the kittens disappeared. When we raised a holler father admitted he was the culprit. The reason he gave was that it took

HUNTERS' CORNER

Bunny Population Down; As Winter Season Ends

The 1961-62 rabbit season is over. It closed on Jan. 31. For this columnist's money the rabbit population, so far as southern Queens county is concerned, was down approximately 50 per cent. Fox hunters, at least those who are not interested in the bunnies, agree to this figure and some claim they are under the 50 per cent quota. I have talked to died-in-the-wool rabbit hunters who insist they were more numerous than last season. One puzzling feature has crept into the picture: If they are as plentiful as claimed by the rabbit clan how come they have to drive 30 and 40 miles to find them in worthwhile numbers?

To begin with I have no axe to grind when I inquire into the rabbit situation. I have no ulterior motive in mind such as re-

Evinrudes, 'Birds' Clash At S'side

SUMMERSIDE — The Cape Traverse Evinrudes realize that victory now over the Old Spain Penguins would blot out their sorry record of the 1961-62 regular season play, and they are prepared to put the fight of their careers to show Prince County fandom that they are a better team than the fans estimate them to be.

These same Evinrudes beat the Summerside Crystals 4-0 in their last game on Civic Stadium ice, and they see no reason why they can't duplicate this performance against the Penguins.

The Cape boys may go down to defeat, but they are to a man resolved that 'Birds' will have a real battle on their hands.

Some really exciting play-off hockey should be the result. The speed boys, Jack Kane and Billy Mulligan, and the crafty Apps Arsenault will be leading the Penguins in their drive for a berth in the finals. Gord Cutcliffe and his benchmen will attempt to slow the visitors down. Some rugged checking can be looked for in this game.

Game tonight will start at the Stadium at 9:15.

IIHF Receives Official Notice From Germans

MONTREAL (CP) — The International Ice Hockey Federation has finally received official notice of East Germany's troubles in getting to the world championships.

Federation President Robert Lebel said Thursday he has received a cable from the East German Hockey Federation protesting against the refusal of the Allied travel office in Berlin to issue the travel permits the East German team needs before it can apply for United States visas.

Mr. Lebel said the East German federation asked for the support of the international federation "and they will certainly get it."

"The East Germans have a right to be in the tournament and we shall do everything we can to enable them to participate."

Mr. Lebel said he will leave for Colorado Springs today to meet the American organizing committee Monday and Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Czechoslovakia's hockey authorities said in Prague today they have cabled Mr. Lebel offering to stage the championships.

Mr. Lebel said he has not heard from them.

Harvard Grigger Goes To Patriots

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Pete Hart intends to become the first Harvard football captain ever to play professional football.

Hart, 21, a 210-pound end, signed Wednesday with Boston Patriots of the American League. He is one of the few Harvard players ever to enter pro ranks and the first in nearly 20 years.

and asking the IIHF to "support our rights."

Lebel has insisted the tournament will go on at Colorado Springs. He has called a meeting of the IIHF's North American section for Monday and Tuesday at Colorado Springs to "re-assess and make final plans."

CARE FOR CHILDREN

The Children's Act of 1942 made it the duty of the British government to care for children under 17 with no parents or guardians.



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