



DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

The "immortal Dan Patch" 1.55 1/4, the greatest pacer in the history of harness racing and probably the most beloved harness horse of all time, is making his appearance on TV throughout the Maritimes and we have had requests for some particulars about him. He was foaled in 1896 and was sired by Joe Patchen 2.01 1/4, one of the greatest race horses of his era. His dam was Zellica by Wilkes Barry and he was bred by A. Messner, Jr. of Oxford, Indiana.

He was driven in his 4-year-old form by a Mr. Waddell, a man of 73 years of age. Dan made his first start over the half mile track at Boswell, Indiana, time 2.22 3/4. At LaFayette, Indiana, he was pitted against eight pacers, lost his first heat and won the next three, reducing his record to 2.16 1/2. He won several other races that fall and in his last start took a record of 2.16 1/2.

Later he was sent against the watch and paced a mile in 2.10, which drew the attention of Myron E. McHenry, one of the best drivers of those days. McHenry got him ready for the Grand Circuit entering him in several events. His first race was at Windsor, Ontario, mile track where he won. That good pacer Winfield Stratton and he won in 2.07 1/2, 2.10, 2.09. At Detroit he had to step in 2.08. He won also at the Cleveland meeting and at Brighton Beach he lost the first heat to Martha Marshall in 2.09. In the second heat he won on will one of his electric rushes winning in 2.04 1/2, last quarter in 31 seconds. At Readville, Mass., he was barred from the betting, luckily for anyone that would be betting against him, as he won easily.

STIFF CONTEST
At Providence R.I., he met some of the best horses on the Grand Circuit winning the first heat in 2.04 1/2 with the last half in 1.01 1/2. He won his next two heats rather easily. He also won at Cincinnati and at Lexington he won the Tennessee for 2.08 pacers. His principal opponent was Shadow Chimes 2.05, then in great form and he gave Dan such a stiff argument that the stallion had to beat the record for the race. The mile in 2.05 was a quarter second better than the heat by Connor the year before. Islanders will well remember the beautiful Shadow Chimes, that later found fame and fortune in Dan's hands. Dan was owned by the late Frederick Robins.

Dan finished up his season at Memphis, Tennessee, winning all three heats, making twelve straight wins during the campaign and only one heat lost. In 1902 he continued winning at Cleveland, Ohio, he reduced his record to 2.05 1/2, stepping a half in 1.01 1/2 and the last quarter in 30 3/4 seconds. At the finish of that year he had paced 57 contested heats losing but two and proved himself to be possessed of indomitable courage. In 1903 Dan was again in the watch giving exhibitions at the principal race tracks and fair grounds in the United States with Myron McHenry up. Everywhere he appeared crowds thronged to see him. His performances were managed with perfect showmanship. To the occasional racegoers contests against time however interesting they may be to horsemen lack the thrill of a hard-fought race.

DAN PATCH DAY
Dan Patch's trials of speed were made vastly exciting by the elaborate preparation expended upon them and by their dramatic execution. Not one but three runners went with him, a horse before him, a horse beside him, and a horse behind. It was a field of four with that marvel of energy, Dan Patch, at dead center. No wonder that "Dan Patch Day" on every race course where the brown pacer appeared packed the stands.
At Memphis, Tennessee, in the race for the Memphis Cup, Dan Patch stepped to a new world's mile went to the length and breadth of the United States and Canada. Everywhere he was the idol of thousands of men, women and boys. Pictures of him were circulated in all the magazines and papers. The small boy's sled and baby's hobby horse were named Dan Patch.

A manufacturer brought out a Dan Patch washing machine, warranted to turn out a batch of clothes in two minutes by the watch. He was at this time however by M. W. Savage, proprietor of the International Stock Farm, and no horse ever had such publicity as Mr. Savage's brown pacer. Not only the story of his races but the accounts of his home life were broadcast. Thousands of booklets were sent out entitled, "The Racing Life of Dan Patch." There were pictures of him galloping and he was described as not only a great horse but an amiable and sociable horse. "He likes people. He likes to turn around and look at the crowds when he is on the track. He likes to listen to the band. He is a good mixer. That is why he had friends as well as admirers."

100,000 PEOPLE
In 1904 Harry Hersey took over the job as trainer and driver for Mr. Savage. That year Dan entertained audiences estimated to have numbered 600,000 people. He travelled 10,000 miles to meet them. On his return to Minneapolis at the end of the season he was met with a brass band and escorted through the streets of the city by a parade of 2,000 hometown admirers. In 1905 the crowds that came to see Dan Patch were larger than ever.

Mr. Savage made an arrangement with the Minnesota State Fair in which he guaranteed an attendance of over 40,000. The actual number of people that said admission was 55,000 and at Allentown, Pa., on Dan Patch Day 2,000 people swamped the facilities of the race course. In 1905 at Lexington, Kentucky, in an annual contest the watch Dan Patch paced the mile in 1.55 1/4 and that stood in the books of harness racing as

his fastest and also as a world's record until Billy Direct lowered it to 1.55 in 1938 at Lexington, and Adios Harry equalled that at Vernon Downs in 1955.

Dan Patch also was credited with a mile in 1.55 in 1906 at the Minnesota State Fair. This was another case where Mr. Savage's judgment of producing a record crowd made him a lot of money. He guaranteed some 60,000 and the actual number that paid admission was 93,000, the largest ever assembled at a harness racing track. His mile there was an exhibition one with pacemakers, but the governing bodies of the turf put their heads together and turned down that record, making a rule that a horse trotting or pacing behind a pacemaker no longer be allowed a record made that way.

KEPT ON TOP
Dan Patch entertained the public for ten years. The crowd never grew tired of him. During the time on the turf he paced 75 miles at an average speed of 1.59 1/4 and lowered world's records fourteen times. However, it wasn't altogether his statistical record that was to measure his place in the annals of harness racing. To millions of people Dan Patch was neither a racing machine nor an advertising card for his owner's product, but an embodiment of all that is gentle and heroic in a horse. "He was in every sense a Royal Horse", wrote John Hervey. "There has never been another like him."

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We had a visit from a friend from the States last week and he mentioned a great liking for the pacer stallion Corwin Hal by Hal T., that was raced with success by Dannie Steele in 1917, 1918 and in later years. We notice where on July 1, 1921 at Summerside in the 2:17 race Corwin Hal (D. Steele) 2-2-1, Thomas R. (Church) 2-2-2, Rexhart (Boutlier) 4-3-3, Ed Locando (M. Steele) 3-4-2, Time, 2:19, 2:21, 2:20. At Truro, July 12, 1921, in the Free For All Pace, Corwin Hal (D. Steele) 11-2-1, Plucky Dillard (Boyles) 5-5-1-3, Belle McGregor (Fraser) 3-2-5-2, P.K. Junior (Currie) 2:34. Time, 2:16 2:19, 2:18, 2:22. The first heat was a new track pacer record for Truro. At Souris, P.E.I. July 27, 1921, Free For All Pace, Corwin Hal (D. Steele) 1-1-1, Rexhart (Boutlier) 2-2-2, White Hal (MacNeill) 2-3-3, Time, 2:18 1/4 (trace record) 2:18 1/4, 2:21.

DEADLINE
Horsemen are reminded to send for their eligibility certificates prior to May 1st, which is the deadline for the \$2.00 fee. After that they will cost \$4.00 each.

Harley Harrison, one of our best Maritime reinsmen, has taken a position with John A. Cameron of Smiths Falls, Ontario, and will train and drive that good stable this season. Ballo Gould, Truro has taken over the Mrs. Emma Mustacalis stable consisting of Real Fingo 2:14 2-5, April Bud 2:12, Impact 2:05 and a colt. Art Porter of Springhill will race the year. They are Freddie Scott 2:10 1-5, Fresh Girl 2:18 1-5 and Frenchman 2:08 3-5, and Harry O'Donnell of Springhill will train and race the Richar, Jabalee horses from North Sydney. They are Hand Book 2:03 2-5 Volon 2:11 2-5, Miss Hazel Hal and two others.

The above information was given us by Ike Moreside, who has been training the Lorne Letcher horses at Springhill all winter Ike, back for a couple of days visit, looks wonderfully well and is very pleased with his new job. He says the horses have been kept going and are getting slow miles over the Springhill track now and early in May they will move to a track in Massachusetts where they will be prepared for stake engagements and purse races at Bay State Raceway, Foxboro, Mass. The horses are Flaming Way 2:04 3-5, Bothwell 2:02 3-5, Direct Mite 2:06 3-5, Mighty Deb. 2-08 and Chevie G. 2:10.

ANNOUNCER
Our congratulations to Ingham Palmer and Saint John Raceway on his receiving an appointment with them. Ingham is one of the best announcers in the Maritimes and has the capacity to take any position in connection with a track. He is also the editor of The Trot and Pace magazine, a new publication, very attractively gotten up, the first number being published in April. It contains many items of interest to Maritime horsemen including an excellent picture and write up of Jerry's Nightmare 2:06 and Jerry A. Hanover 2:06 1-5, also other features.

Parties with pacers that have not won \$100.00 or more at either place are reminded that the nomination fee of \$15.00 closes April 15th, on the \$1,500. Miramichi Earl Closer to be raced at Chatham, N.B. July 1st. Entries must be sent to A.D. Napke, P.O. Box 359, Newcastle, N.B.

St. Santa Anita Mile took last Wednesday Dottie Pick 1:36 4-5 won the \$10,000 second. Joe O'Brien was up behind the Hal horse and his performance, shows Joe has returned to driving form again. Dottie Pick is the fastest racing mare racing and won over \$127,000.00 last season. She is owned by J.E. and C.E. Armstrong of Brampton, Ontario.

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