

Back Stretch

Hanover 1.56 1/2, one of the greatest colt trotters of all time and now a famous sire.

Billy Houghton, the leading race and money-winning driver of 1953, had a field night at Yorkers Tuesday. Up behind five horses he won four and finished third in his only defeat of the night. He turned in one of the upsets of the week when he piloted David Caudle to the featured \$3500 AA Pace over a smart field. Sharp Note, the 1952 Hamiltonian winner, is back at work again, following several months' sidelining after an accident last fall in California.

Some years ago there was a scarcity of good trotters in this province but the last two seasons quite a number have shown up well and have improved so much that our tracks can easily stage classes for trotters that will provide the very best competition. Here are some of them with their records and eligibilities:—Derrick 2:15-2:14 class; Rajah Hanover 2:13 3/5-2:17 class; Jennie Kalmuck 2:10 3/5-2:19 class; Joandale 2:15-2:19 class; Feather Duster 2:10-2:19 class; Milldale 2:14 1/5-2:20 class; Winnie's Last 2:15-2:20 class; Arionway 2:13-2:21 class; Bonnie Dale 2:15 1/5-2:21 class; Vella Grattan 2:16-2:21 class; Royal Scott, Jr. 2:14 4/5-2:21 class; Pet Hanover 2:13 2/5-2:22 class; Guy Harvester 2:13-2:22 class; Bud's Echo 2:15 3/5-2:23 class; Judy Kalmuck 2:15 3/5-2:23 class; Jimmie A. 2:13 3/5-2:23 class; Chet Lyn Clever 2:13 2/5-2:24 class. This list could be extended with at least a dozen more that have shown miles in better than 2:20 and will likely knock several seconds off that figure this season.

The Maritime Standardbred Horse Sale at Summerside last Monday drew an attendance of between 600 and 700 horsemen. The arrangements were as near perfect as could be. Part of the arena was roped off for a sales ring and the seats in the north end gave everyone an excellent view of what was going on. The auctioneer, Ken MacDougall, who is also manager of the Summerside Raceway, made his announcements through the loud speaker of the Starting Gate and his excellent voice carried clearly to everyone in the building. Some 70 horses ranging from yearlings to an aged brood mare were among the offerings. There were a few fast record horses but all but one of those had protective bids and W.E. Bowness, owner of Ann's Boy 2:11 1/5, thought so highly of him that the tag was \$3000. His earnings last year were \$1,717.25, which makes that figure seem reasonable.

Next highest protective bid was on Janet Clegg 2:17 2/5, that made a new 2-year-old pacing record for Maritime breeds last season and was six times first and six times second—certainly an excellent showing. Owner Sobey's price was \$2700. Another well-liked pacer was Lina C. Scott and she would have been knocked down at \$900 but the protective bid was \$1200. She is owned by J. W. Farmer, Kinkora. For those who cared to develop well-bred young ones there were a number in the sale that we are confident will with good training make the headlines. We refer to Sandy Reynolds, a 2-year-old chestnut colt by Pagliacci 2:09 1/2, dam, Inez Reynolds by Dick Reynolds 1:58 1/2, grandaunt, Single G. 1:58. He was sold afterwards at private sale to Jim McCoubrey, Cavendish, and was consigned by Weldon Crossman of Summerside.

Here's another that certainly has breeding, Marjorie Clegg, a 2-year-old bay filly by Abner T. Clegg 2:04 1/2, dam, Rose Marie 2nd by Bill L., granddam, Mary Sue by

RACING SULKIES and TRAINING CARTS Apply CARL L. JOHNSON Parrsboro Nova Scotia

Braden Direct, Rose Marie 2nd is a full sister to Happy L. 2:03 1/2, Aaron L. 2:06 1/2 and several others and her great granddam was by Anderson Wilkes, the sire of Single G. 1:58. She was consigned by Alfred Caldwell, Northam, P. E. I. There were many other well-bred ones that could have been bought at bargain prices. Actually 12 horses were sold but after the sale a number of others were disposed of and we have since heard of two that have changed hands as a result of the vendue, one of them the pacer Amico 2:14, by Abner T. Clegg 2:04 1/2, dam Jennie Hal by Sampson Hal 2:02 1/2. The new owner is Herbert Buchanan, Fredericton, P. E. I.

It was a treat to listen to auctioneer Ken MacDougall. He was never at a loss for a word, has a pleasant voice, can give the basic particulars of an animal very quickly and it was certainly a revelation to the writer to see him in action in the capacity of auctioneer. We congratulate him and we also want to congratulate the management of the Summerside Raceway for having staged this auction, going to great expense and leaving nothing undone to make it a success. We hope that it will be an annual affair and if so we are quite sure that eventually it will be the success they hoped for. We mentioned in the Ohio column last week about the Ohio sale and we remember quite clearly the difficulties the promoters had in the first couple of auctions but now it is a real big one, taking its place with Tattersall's and Harrisburg. Top price of the sale was \$800 paid for the 6-year-old trotter Pet Hanover 2:14 2/5, consigned by Roy Bevan of Charlottetown and purchased by the writer.

A pleasant feature was the ban-

Hunter's Corner with bear tracks and pronounced them the 'real McCoy.' There was a lot of excitement in the district for a week or so until the practical joker got tired of the game. In the end the joke was too good to keep other-wise residents of the district would still be convinced they had harboured a bear for part of a summer. The first raccoon I ever saw was about 46 years ago when my Dad purchased a pair in Nova Scotia. At the height of the black and silver fox boom a try was made at ranching most anything including skunk and raccoon. Coons eat more than pigs and have a low bracket pelt value so it wasn't long till the pen doors were open and the animals were given their freedom. Originally neither skunks or coons were native to this province. Quite a few coons were brought to the province by different ranchers. The raccoon is a foxy grandpa...make no mistake about that. Exhaustive tests by scientists and biologists showed that next to the monkey the raccoon possesses the highest I.Q. in the animal kingdom. One test was placing the different animals in a sort of maze where it took considerable mental arithmetic to figure a way out. It didn't take Bobby Coon too long to figure the way out. He wasn't far behind Mr. Monk. I remember a big, dark male raccoon, a real old timer, we kept penned up in our granary for a few weeks, or until he ate us out

of house and home. My brother Dick (J. D.) used to take a big kick out of playing tricks on him. One day he took a piece of choice meat which he fastened to a length of cord. He fastened the cord to an overhead 2x4 and left the meat suspended midway between the ceiling and the floor. The coon tried to reach the prize from the floor but despite some fancy shadow boxing it remained just out of reach. Next move he climbed the wall and hung from the cross piece but his efforts were in vain. The meat was still out of reach. In case you don't know it the raccoon is a high ranking acrobat and top trapeze performer. After the second failure he returned to the floor and sat himself down in a corner. For a full 10 minutes he never took his eyes off the meat. You could almost hear him thinking and figuring the problem out. Finally he ambled to his feet, climbed the wall and a long, thin, snipped the cord with his teeth, descended to the floor and enjoyed a tasty tid-bit. It was just as simple as that after he got his thinking cap on. Ordinarily coons are not difficult to trap but try to circumvent an old timer who is trap shy and it develops into a battle of wits. They'll steal the bait without springing the trap time after time.

How they do it I can only guess. One would almost believe they use a length of wire with a hook on the end but that is carrying the imagination too far. A simple, unexpected angle will sometimes turn the trick if one doesn't become discouraged and quit trying. Coons are destructive animals and will eat most anything they come across. They are very fond of corn in the cob, and who isn't, but will also eat ordinary oats like a horse. This spring I examined a grain barrack on a vacant farm in Kings County. Raccoons had shimmied up one of the posts and chewed a hole in the barrack roof and lived the life of Riley all winter. The top 3 or 4 tiers of sheaves were dug up and cut to ribbons and a pile of droppings consisting of dried oat husks were stacked up in one corner like

one would find in a pig pen. They love to dabble in the mud for hibernating frogs during the late fall and spring months. They'll sleep during real winter weather but will awaken during mild spells and go for a ramble. When the smelts are running spring and fall they have a regular field day or rather night. They'll meet the run of smelts at low tide in November and December far down the mud flats. A raccoon is as much at home in the water as a seal if the occasion arises. They also create havoc among spawning trout in shallow springs. However it is their fondness for eggs and poultry that gets them in wrong with farmers and their wives. All in all the raccoon is not a welcome addition to our wildlife. He is a cute rascal but the monicker of the Masked Highwayman suits

him to a T. The Department of Industry and Natural Resources has placed a bounty of \$3.00 on his mask, including the ears for punching birds or animals, is now prohibited by the Department Concerned. A permit may be secured to bring in here to stay although his number is here to be whittled down to a point in keeping with the general scheme of things. The introduction of Non-native species, either fish birds or animals, is now prohibited by the Department Concerned. A permit may be secured to bring in non-native game birds if the project is proven feasible.



All Ranks P. E. I. Regt. 17th Recce, less "C" Sqn. will parade at the Ordnance Compound Ch'town on Sunday 9 May '54 at 1345 hrs. for Garrison rehearsal for G.O.C.'s inspection. Regt. Band will parade at the Armouries. Dress: Berets, Battle Dress, Webb Belts, Boots and Puttees. A. W. ROGERS, Lt.-Col., Commanding Officer.

ANNUAL MEETING

Queens County Branch Fish and Game Association, City Hall, Tuesday, May 11, 8 o'clock. Election of officers for 1954. Result of recent Plebiscite on shooting, dates, etc. Films will be shown following the meeting.

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