

Back Stretch

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half-mile track. Ensign Hanover 2, 2.04 1/2, unbeaten son of Billy Direct, was the top money winning pacer as he scooped \$31,237 with Sep Palin in the sulky. Deanna Hanover 2, 2.04, daughter of the champion, was the two-year-old champion trotter for owner-driver Gibson White, earning right at \$27,000.

1946 found Sep Palin sweeping the three-year-old trotting crown with Victory Song taking a mile mark of 1.59 1/2 and winning the Kentucky Futurity to climax a long series of brilliant stake victories. King's Counsel ends his career with a 1.58 race mile to join Directum L and Billy Direct as co-racing champions. Ensign Hanover continued to push his earnings over the \$70,000 and won the inaugural \$100,000 Brown Jug for a purse of \$35,359 over Joe Neville's Delaware, Ohio, track. The first \$50,000 purse for aged trotters since the \$50,000 handout at Readville in the 1910's was contested at Santa Anita with Kaola winning the first Golden West trot to a world's record of 2.32 for 1 1/2 miles. The Starting Gate was introduced that year with manifold results to the sport.

1947 saw the night racing plans coming into their own, Roosevelt Raceway in 117 nights of racing distributed \$1,158,000 to horsemen. Hoot Mon won the 1947 Hambletonian for Sep Palin in a record 2.00. Forbes Chief won the Little Brown Jug in 2.01 1/2, though Goose Bay held the three-year-old speed honors with a record of 2.00 2/5. Algers won the \$50,000 Golden West Trot and later took a record of 1.58 4/5 but Victory Song was the aged champion of the year with a mile in 1.57 3/5 for Sep Palin at Springfield to gain him the race record for trotting stallions.

April Star, that had been so badly injured as a colt his owner was almost persuaded to shoot him.

came through to win the \$50,000 Golden West Pace at Santa Anita as well as the \$40,000 two mile pace at Westbury. Proximity, now the world's greatest money winning trotter, won her first major stake that year when she took the \$25,000 American Trotting Championship in 2.02 2/5 from Algers and set a new mark for trotting mares on a half mile track.

1948 found the mighty Rodney, the horse of the year with eight wins in eight starts including the \$50,000 Golden West Trot. He took a mark of 1.58 in May and twice equalled it in the fall. During the year Proximity increased her earnings to \$101,000, the first \$100,000 trotting winner of the bike sulky era. Another notable event was the winning of the Santa Anita pacing derby by Indian Land with Joe O'Brien up.

1949 was another fabulous year with Proximity pushing her earnings up to a total of \$160,205. Jimmie Creed 1.59 4/5, a great night racing competitor, became the leading money winning pacing stallion to that date with \$108,000. Good Time 3, 1.58 4/5, "horse of the year" set several world marks and ran his total earnings to \$105,199. Miss Tilly won the Hambletonian in 2.01 2/5, giving her a record breaking two-year-old total of \$98,062. Our Time 2, 2.02 3/5 became the first two-year-old to win over \$50,000 in a single season. Rodney was the fastest trotter with his 1.57 2/5 mile. The above is just extracts from an outstanding article which reflects great credit on the author.

The Maritimes will be very proud indeed to see the write-up of Brewer's Gallon 2.00 4/5 on page 445 of the Christmas Harvest Horse, which we have condensed. There is an old maxim to the effect that all things come to him who waits, but many staunch followers of the harness horse sport have continued year after year to purchase prospects with the hope of securing a real top one, to have their best efforts fall and their ambitions not realized. One of the many fine gentlemen, however, who has been an ardent fancier over a period of years, owned numerous trotters and pacers and in 1950 saw his fond hopes realized, is Bertram C. Cruikshank of Halifax, N.S., the proud possessor of Brewer's Gallon 2.00 4/5, the handsome, beautifully gaited and royally bred five-year-old stallion by Bill Gallon 3, 1.59 1/2.

Brewer's Gallon made a truly remarkable campaign in 1950, one rendered more brilliant by the reason that he repeatedly met the best in his division over both the half and full mile tracks and closed the season with 15 victories to his credit in 16 starts, his lone defeat being an event in which he was called upon to meet Demon Hanover 1.59 4/5, Egan Hanover 1.59, Phil Bloom 1.58 4/5, etc., and then he was third only a length back in 2.02. Mr. Cruikshank, feeling that he had a truly great racing trotter, showed himself a true sportsman by denying himself the pleasure of frequently seeing his horse race, by sending him to Joe O'Brien to race in the "States".

When Santa Anita opened April 21st, the pair from Nova Scotia were ready and in winning form. O'Brien landed top honors with the handsome Brewer's Gallon in 2.06 3/5. The following week he appeared in a faster division but was equal to the occasion, winning in 2.04 4/5, last quarter in 29 2/5, joining the select 2.05 crop of trotters. His next outing was in a \$3,500 trot but he won, lowering his record to 2.03 and setting a new season's mark for gait. He followed this up by winning another race in 2.04 1/5 and his fifth consecutive victory was in the \$7,500 Fullerton Trot where he earned a new record of 2.02 2/5. At the conclusion of the California meeting Brewer's Gallon was shipped to Saratoga Springs, N.Y. and started on his eastern campaign, which proved to be one continuous success -- ten starts and corresponding number of victories.

In his first effort at Saratoga he

won an \$1,800 early closer in 2.06 1/5, won the following week and the next week won a condition event in 2.05 3/5 and concluded his activities there by winning a \$20,000 trot in 2.06. At Good Time Park meeting, Goshen, N.Y., he won both dashes of a \$3,000 event in 2.05 4/5 and 2.03 4/5, then moved to Roosevelt Raceway where he won the \$3,000 Free For All Trot in 2.06 3/5 and followed this up later by winning the \$5,000 Free For All in 2.05 2/5. With 13 victories to his credit Brewer's Gallon was shipped to Lexington, Ky., his owner naturally being anxious to have him close his brilliant season's career in the Blue Grass.

Joe O'Brien had the stallion in nice order for his final engagement and Mr. Cruikshank with his friend, Heber Sweeney, flew in from his distant home in Halifax and was naturally delighted in watching his grand trotter defeat fifteen opponents in the Arden Homestead \$3,000 Trot in 2.02 1/5, 2.03, coming from a back position in the stretch each mile with a closing spurt that carried him to the front. With a record of 2.00 4/5 and victories in 15 of his 16 starts, Brewer's Gallon justly ranks as one of the top racing trotters of the 1950 season. There is every reason to believe he will trot to an even faster record in 1951. Wires, phone calls, letters and personal solicitations from parties in all sections of the country and from foreign countries have been received by Mr. Cruikshank, asking for a price and to every one of these he has replied -- "I don't care to sell."

Bill MacAusland, track superintendent at the Charlottetown raceway, is the proud owner of a more than likely speed prospect -- a colt by Pagliacci 2.09 1/2, dam, Carol Kalmuck by Kalmuck 2.15 1/2, grandam Lady Helena by Captain Aubrey. Lady Helena is a full sister to Peter Pokey 2.07. Gwendolyn Aubrey 2.08 1/2 and Helen Aubrey 2.08 1/2.

There passed away in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, on December 12th at the age of 49 years, the noted harness horse driver and trainer, Raoul Potvin. Mr. Potvin was with the horses practically all his life and was one of the best trainers, conditioners, balancers and drivers in Canada. Some thirty years ago he made a tour of the Maritimes with his stable and in doing so he made life long friends, the writer included. One of the most noted in his string at that time was the pacing mare Lady Grattan that he gave a record of 2.08 1/2 and was sold for \$5,000. He also drove Prince Rupert 2.04 1/2. For years he was one of the leading drivers in Quebec and at many New York state race tracks. A few seasons ago he developed the trotter Palachuck and won a large number of races with him and he was sold for a long figure to parties in the United States. Mr. Potvin leaves to mourn his wife, son and two brothers, all of Montreal. On behalf of Maritime friends we extend our deep sympathy to them in their very sad bereavement.

Next Saturday our Annual Review of harness racing in the Maritimes will appear in this paper. It will carry all the previous features and some new and interesting ones including the Universal Drivers Rating System. And now at this season of the year we wish to extend to all our readers our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas.

Hunters Corner

(Continued from Page 6)

the red fox finds himself under heavy pressure from bounty hunters. It is expected that the take at the local bounty office (Royal Packing Company at the end of the year) will exceed 500 reds and patches. This total will not include the number turned in at the bounty office in Summerdale. Old time fox trappers are collecting a good share of pelts. In fact an experienced trapper will account for more foxes than the hunters who depends on hounds.

There is a good tracking snow at present and now is the time to take of our wildlife population. If one sees the tracks of a covey of Huns he knows that the birds are somewhere in the vicinity even if they are not spotted. The same applies to pheasants. Two years ago in late February I came across the tracks of 3 hens and 1 cock pheasant in a small swamp less than a quarter mile from a farm house. It was the first pheasant sign I had observed in this district. I spoke to the farmer: "Any pheasant around?" "No" was his reply. "There's not a pheasant within miles" quite often we are blissfully unaware of the presence of game until the first snowfall.

In the week to come this columnist hopes to take full advantage of the tracking snow. A winter landscape is an open book to the nature lover. For the present here's wishing the readers of this 'Corner' a Happy and Joyous Xmas.

Sport Echoes From Prince County

Summerside boys are beginning to make their presence felt in the line-up of the Pictou Maripacs. Pictou defeated New Glasgow Bombers 8 to 5 in New Glasgow Tuesday night and ex-Crystals were responsible for four of the eight counters. Stan "Mooney" Gallant, Summerside's "Galloping Ghost" of the ice lanes, scored twice and chalked up two assists to tie the Williams' one goal and three assists for top scoring honors on the evening's play. Syl Bernard had one goal and two assists and Charles Deighan fired a single tally.

Jim Hogan, Prince County Physical Fitness director, informs us that the Summerside Legion is going to sponsor either the Summerside Juveniles or Midgets. Thus one of those teams is assured of competent direction. The Summerside Kinsmen who had sponsored both those age-divisions for the last few years, is confining its efforts to the supervision of bantam, pee-wee and paperweight teams this year.

Travers, hailing from Sydney, Cape Breton, and Van Ember, a native of Pugwash, who played with the Albany St. Pats last year, are expected to turn out with the Summerside Crystals as soon as the Crystal Rink manager, Gordon Mackay, is able to get together with Delor Arsenal and Jack Frost and fix up a suitable sheet of ice. The last named gentleman is the big boss of this trio and without his co-operation, nothing can be done. Of late, he seems to be taking a little interest in the proposition.

Paul Schurman, Layton Schurman and Mark Delaney are getting their first test in the Moncton rink as we write these lines. The Sussex Rangers are playing the Moncton Juniors and the three Summerside boys are playing with the Dairy Town team, the two Schurmans playing on the forward line and Delaney probably in the nets. We hope to hear of goals scored by the Schurman boys and goals prevented by the easy-going, but not the easy Mark.

The Islanders have racked up another one. Just heard that they downed the luckless Moncton Hawks 5 to 1. It will certainly be too bad if Metcalfe does not turn up to play with Moncton. Metcalfe who played with Sherbrooke last year was a very solid performer at that time, and if he has not slipped considerably, should give the Hawks some of the bolstering they so sadly need.

To all readers of this column, a Merry Christmas.

Awarded \$17,000 For Injuries At Hockey Game

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 --(AP) -- Mrs. Mary Kathryn Sullivan was awarded \$17,000 by the United States Court of Appeals today because she didn't know a hockey puck could be hit into the air off the ice.

The court upheld an earlier verdict which gave Mrs. Sullivan the money for injuries suffered at a Washington Lions hockey game at Uline Arena here on March 19, 1946. It was the first hockey game Mrs. Sullivan had seen. Ullie Ice, Inc., which formerly had the pro hockey team here, contended Mrs. Sullivan either was sufficiently informed of the danger, or after seeing screens at the ends of the rink and watching the play for a short time, should have been aware there was some danger attached to watching a hockey game, thereby assuming the risk.

However, the court did not agree. "Here the appellee (Mrs. Sullivan)" it said, "testified she did not know that the puck could leave the playing area, that she did not know that the zone where she was sitting was dangerous, and that this was her first time at a hockey game."

During the game, a flying puck struck Mrs. Sullivan in the face. The lenses of her glasses were crushed, pieces of glass driven into her eyes. About 98 per cent of the

vision in her right eye has been lost, the court was informed. Her husband also collected \$3,000 for medical expenses.

Sport Briefs

BOSTON, Dec. 21 --(AP) -- "Ebba" St. Clare-Edward Joseph St. Clare, Jr., catcher who was with the pennant-winning Atlanta Crackers of the Southern Association last season today signed a contract with Boston Braves. The 29-year-old six-footer batted .230 with Atlanta.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 21 --(AP) -- Jockey Willie Shoemaker rode a double for the third day at the New Orleans Fair Grounds today to climb within eight winners of Joe Culmone, the leading rider in the United States. Culmone, still leading 370 to 362, was idle for the fourth day at Tropical Park because of his spill last Saturday.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 21 --(AP) -- Burglars broke into the tem-

porary home of pitcher Mel Par-nell of Boston Red Sox Wednesday night and stole an estimated \$1,000 in valuables, including the family's Christmas presents.

SIX-VOLUME POEM Henry Brooke, an Irish writer who died in 1783, among other works wrote a poem in six volumes called "Universal Beauty".

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