

Retirement Doesn't End The Urge To Investigate

Wildgeese are on full rations in spring and this is in sharp contrast to the near starvation conditions that existed on this island last year—ice sealed flats of estuaries and snow covered fields. This spring geese have the nice of stubble, meadows or after cured refuse potatoes that are left in the fields last fall. Geese are very fond of the dried starch content to which popovers are reduced come spring. subjected to undue punishment. The stubble and meadows they have the choice of feeding in comparative safety on the tidal flats. Those who take a chance on mudflats and fields run considerable risk.

It's passing strange how the shells of shotgun shells has stepped up this past few weeks of a winter's lull. Clerks behind the counter tell me its nothing usual for a customer to step and order two boxes of 3 heavy loads without batting an eye. Size of shot requested is from No. 2, to triple. A. is nothing furtive in their inner. Some even joke about using a spring goose lined up. Hunting has been taboo since I ushered in and was for weeks before. An excuse it one was after crows or fox on ice in my book when on the rounds.

When one has spent the best of one's life connected with law enforcement work one often guided by an instinctive urge to go some place. It suddenly pops into ones mind and thought persists. It comes up at times. Last Sunday morning for instance I awoke shortly before seven with the sun shining brightly in the bedroom

land. Crossing the marsh I noted where geese had been feeding earlier in the spring but figured the droppings were close to a week old. This didn't look so good as geese make a practice of feeding along this shore every spring and do not leave without reason. The seaweed pile had been trimmed up till it was about the height of a man. A hunter could lie in it and be semi-perpendicular and in good position for a shot. Seaweed is tops as camouflage. A hunter can be exposed and not spotted unless he moves.

I wasn't interested in the seaweed pile. My hunch had been correct. Two men had been on the Bar that morning—around daybreak I figured. The tide was due to recede shortly before daybreak and I observed where one had walked on wet sand and a foot below high tide mark. One foot print was long and rather narrow—a size 11 at least. It was a distinctive foot mark. On the sole were three crescent shaped grips about an inch and a half apart. Each consisted of a solid strip of rubber approx a quarter inch wide and the same in depth. The other was a No. 8 with narrow cross strips on the sole.

It was the second trip to the Bar this spring for Elephant Foot and the second, possibly the 3rd, for No. 8. The smaller person had walked through the woods and apparently had left the island. No. 11 could still have been in the woods. Dried grasses and turf left no foot prints.

NO EVIDENCE
No evidence was unearthed that denoted any geese had been killed nor were any empty shells found. Seldom do poachers leave empty shells lying around if they have an opportunity to pick them up. The point is: whoa would any persons be doing around a lonely point like this at Daybreak on Easter Sunday morning and on previous occasions. The geese gave me all the answer I needed. 24 flew past in a long string

Back Stretch

(Continued from Page 8)
my weights in the vicinity of 110 pounds when ready for the fray, and that should help him out now that he has decided to try his skill at driving harness horses. He was slated to be up behind Noble Adios, 3, 1.50 1.5, in a race at Santa Anita last week. Trainer-driver Del Miller, who shares ownership with him in a couple of race horses, arranged the switch.

The brand-new half mile track at Rockingham Park, Salem, New Hampshire, staged its first program last night. Morning workouts during the past three weeks have shown good clockings by the upwards of 400 horses stabled there. They have moved in from Florida, North Carolina and several other training tracks, and among the drivers who will compete are Billy Houghton and Johnny Simson.

The new track will cost the owners over \$600,000 for improvements. Located on it is a clubhouse built in 1956 that cost a million dollars and is kept heated so as to make it most comfortable for occupants. The track and stables have been fully lighted, and a \$75,000 press box is located on the roof of the grandstand, with quarters for racing officials on the finish line. A new electronic telemeter will flash the time when the first horse's nose hits the wire. It will also give the time for quarters.

IS ATTRACTION
Eight dashes are carded, with the races starting at 8:00 p.m. but like the flock of 8 they were not interested in the Island except in giving it a wide berth. It was a simple procedure to identify Elephant Foot. I'd advise him the next time he roams around the shore under suspicious circumstances to pull a Robinson Crusoe and go bare footed.

To show the interest that is being taken in this meeting, horses were expressed in from California, and among the drivers who were stars in other days, we notice that Henry Clukey is there with 10 head, and Pierce Chappell, a former Maritimer whose home is now in Bangor, Maine, has expressed in with 17 head that had been racing in California.

The writer was very pleased to receive in the mail yesterday, a letter from J. Alfred Valentine, executive vice-president and general manager of Roosevelt Raceway, Westbury, Long Island, enclosing an official pass for Roosevelt Raceway, season of 1958. We are grateful to our friend, Mr. Valentine, for his kind thoughtfulness.

Roosevelt Raceway had its first race program of the season on Tuesday night, April 1. The \$200,000 track showed its popularity by drawing over 32,000 fans to its confines despite the none-too-pleasant weather that prevailed. The pari-mutuels set a new opening night record, with almost \$2,000,000 passing through the iron men.

While they are racing in New York they have concluded at Santa Anita, and despite the bad weather in California, they set a new season's record. Tomorrow afternoon, racing starts at Blue Bonnets, Montreal, and will continue there, and at Richelieu, for 200 nights.

GOOD PICKER
Percy Gray of Providence, R. I., has, with his brothers, been among the most successful pickers of promising harness horse yearlings and are now prominent breeders.

He recently turned down an offer of \$50,000 for nine exceptionally well-bred foals. The Gray family has been connected with harness horses for upwards of 60 years, and the writer made a trade with Percy's father at an

Old Glory Sale in New York in November, 1913.

As a result, I brought home the little trotting mare which was re-named "The Rexall Girl"—Percy's dad got the better of the deal, too.

We are glad to note that our friend, A.D. Napke, Newcastle, N.B., is again sponsoring a \$3,000 early-closing program to be raced on July 1 at Chatham, N. B. This program has been a money-winning driver of the harness horse racing world for the past three years, averaging over a half a million dollars annually. What is not well known is that his handsome young wife, Dorothy Houghton, loves horses and has been around them all her life.

Her father was a judge at harness horse race tracks, and that is why Dorothy early learned a lot about horses. At the night racing contests, she is always present, if possible, and other wives of drivers get together with her and watch the contests

Nominations for the Mirimachi early-closer should be forwarded on or before April 15.

IN BERMUDA
Dr. Stan Teixeira writes from Bermuda that Mr. Walter Gibbons, the new manager of the Bermuda Jockey Club, has paid another visit there for several days and was glad that the management had acquired a large piece of adjoining property that will permit the building of new barns and other improvements. He said that it would be easy to get sufficient United States horses to race there, because so many of them are sent South for winter training in the U.S.

In Bermuda, they will have a chance to race and make some money. The new stables will accommodate between 100 and 150 horses. He also says that it will be necessary to reverse the former clockwise running of horses and change to the counter-clockwise method used on United States

and Canadian tracks. He was of the opinion that the track will be ready for the proposed November 11 opening date.

with considerable anxiety.

Her ambition, as a youngster, was to be a veterinarian, but her mother objected and she became a lab technician, and was at that occupation when she met Bill. Now she just takes care of the kids, entertains the owners, goes to the races every night, and listens to the drivers run their races over and over again. When her hubby gets short-handed, she helps train the horses, and Bill says: "She can, too."

At 34, Bill has been driving horses for 17 years. His first start was at a county fair when he was in High School. From the time he was eight years old, he picked up spare money working around on farms, often for as

little as 25 cents for a day's work on a Saturday holiday. His interest in horses caused his father to send him to the Cobleskill Agricultural College, and during the summer vacations, he worked on farms.

His first job with horses was grooming them, and his wages were one dollar a day. He became a full-time trainer and driver in 1947, and was leading driver at Saratoga Raceway in 1949. That fall he ended with 16 horses.

Since he started racing at Roosevelt, up to the beginning of this campaign, he has won over \$3,000,000 and has been leading money-winner among U.S.T.A. drivers several times.

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