



DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

The USTA film of the Hambletonian and Little Brown Jug racing which was shown in Charlotte-town and this week in Saint John, moves on Saturday to Halifax where C. L. Dauphinee, well known horseman, will take care of its showing there. We have a lot of requests for it and have tried to place them in the order in which they have been received, and we hope to have them shown at all the principal racing centers in the Maritimes.

Mr. Dauphinee has been one of the best supporters of harness racing through the years and his pacer Connally 3, 2.10 2-5 in 83 starts last season was 27 times first, 11 times second and 9 times third. These starts of 2.03 1/2 include his wins over the Halifax Commons where it was a familiar figure while that track was in operation.

Mr. Waldo 3, 2.09 is a 6-year-old chestnut gelding by The Widower 1.59 1/2, and was 5 times first, 7 times second and ten times third last year and is eligible to the 2.19 pace. He was formerly owned by Donald Rankin, North West Arm, C.B.

Another horse he owns in the 8-year-old Ableway 3, 2.09 4-5. This horse is extremely well bred, his sire being King's Counsel p. 1.38 by Volomist 3, 2.03 1/2 dam, the famous brood mare Margaret Spangler p. 2.02 1/2. The dam of Ableway is Edna Brewer p. 1, 2.00 by Peter the Brewer 4, 2.02 1/2, dam, Del Direct p. 2.03 1/2. Edna Brewer is the dam of ten with records of 2.10 and better, six of them with records of 2.05 and better. King's Counsel was next to the famous Adios in winnings of his get during 1956.

SEASON TICKETS
Island Park, Woodstock, N.B., can boast of having one of the top harness colonies of the season stabled there and receiving daily jogging and training. Some 65 standardbreds valued in the vicinity of \$100,000 are regularly put through their paces. This is largely due to the enterprising Woodstock Driving Club that have put on a sale of season's tickets that is bringing in a large response from fans in Woodstock and vicinity. The president of the club is Dr. J. B. Sutherland and he has a strong executive with him and they mean to make Woodstock one of the best racing centers in the Maritimes.

Among the trainers there are Bob Brown, Jim Smith, Cruse, Robinson, Henry Clayton Kilham and Harry Mount and there are numerous private owners like J. Henry DeWitt, Wilfred Price, R. E. Hamilton, Lorne Britton and Frank VanBuskirk. The Woodstock track has long been regarded as one of the fastest in the Maritimes and the pacing record there of 2.05 was set by Ray Henley 2.02 1/2 on July 14, 1938 with Earle Avery driving. The trotting record is 2.07 1/2 made by Calumet calling 2.05 1/2 on July 13, 1939, with driver Hunt up.

FINISH COUNTS
Every driver of harness horses feel he had an advantage when he secures the pole position, and it certainly does help a whole lot. Statistics taken by the United States Trotting Association for three mile tracks, Bay Meadows, Hollywood Park and Santa Anita, show that positions do not count as winning advantages as much as one would think. Here are the averages: for pole, 15 per cent; number 2 position, 16 per cent; three, 11 per cent; four, 11 per cent; five, 14 per cent; six, 11 per cent; seven, 12 per cent; eight, 10 per cent. For sixteen of the top pari-mutuel half mile tracks in the United States the percentages are: pole, 18 per cent; number two, 15 per cent; three, 13 per cent; four, 14 per cent; five, 13 per cent; six, 11 per cent; seven, 9 per cent; eight, 10 per cent. It will be seen that positions count much more over the half mile tracks and the reason is that the race to the first turn is only about half the distance that it is on a mile track. The percentage of accidents occurring on a race track in USTA membership has also been compiled and it shows that although the number of tracks in membership since 1951 have increased largely, also night racing, yet the number of accidents resulting in injuries in 1951 — which was 102 — has only increased to 152 in 1956. In the latter year 93 of these accidents occurred at pari-mutuel meetings, 47 at fairs and 12 in training and warming up. Injuries to drivers increased from 135 in 1951 to 185 in 1956. Known fatalities were shown in 1952, one; 1953, two; 1954, two; 1955, one and 1956 there were 268 accidents without injuries. A very large percentage of the drivers carry individual insurance coverage.

GROWING INTEREST
The growth of the trotting sport as conducted by the USTA is shown by the following figures: In 1948 the total purses were \$9,805,079. In 1956 they were \$21,862,411. In 1948 the number of horses starting was 3,773 and in 1956, 14,622. The active members in the Association have increased from 9,776 in 1952 to 12,267 in 1956. Our district — 11 — consisting of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, has a membership of 1,134, which is equal to district 5 and is exceeded by districts 1-2-3-9-10.

In the latest Harness Horse are pictures of Camp Farm's stables at Shafter, California. They have been laid out with great care and a lot of thought has been put into their construction. The design is a quarter circle and living and sleeping quarters are built in on each side and in the center there is a large opening through which the horses are driven to the five-eighths of a mile track. This track has been laid out by veterinarians from plans similar to Vernon Downs Raceway, which holds the race record for a mile pacing 1:55. The U-shaped barn has 46 stalls, plus seven tack and feed rooms.

The stalls are 12 x 12 and lined with hardwood. The stable is built

of California Redwood and there is not a knot in the entire building. One of the top cupolas has a closed in observatory facing the track from which perfect observation of the horses at all times can be made while they are training and jogging. Mr. Camp has gone very thoroughly and very cleverly into breeding operations as well and foals by Scott Frost are showing up this season. Pictures of two of them appear in the Camp Farm views mentioned. One of them is out of Rilda Mite 3, 2.03 1/2 and she is the dam of the 1956 Kentucky Futurity winning trotter Nimble Colby 3, 1.59.

The 14th annual Spring auction at Saratoga Springs, New York, will be held May 7 and 8 and a large number of horses are expected to be consigned to it. It was at this sale some years ago that Pet Hanover was purchased by Roy Bevan.

A. P. Brattan, a Canadian pacer, took a new record of 2.05 last season and shows up in the Year Book as having 25 firsts, 9 seconds, 6 thirds and 2 fourths, yet the money he earned was only \$1,466 — certainly not in accord with the amount of effort he had to make to win it.

ALDERMAN
We had the pleasure of a short conversation with G. Murray Sullivan of Halifax, who represents Mastex, Ltd., Convertors and Printers, and Master Textiles, Ltd., Manufacturers and Distributors, and we learn that our mutual friend Alderman Frank Adams is still attending to the duties of his office. He probably holds the record in Halifax for continuous election racing and he owned a lot of good ones in his day, notably Frank Patch, that was leading Maritime free-for-all for years and the last horse he owned was Watchin 2.06, that holds Maritime trotting records at St. Stephen of 2.06 1/2 Bridgewater, N.S. — 2.07, Sydney — 2.10, Truro — 2.09 and Charlottetown 2.07 1/2. In all the above races he was driven by Billy Hood, who still races a stable in at Foxboro, Mass and other tracks.

Marshall Govang of Saint John is the owner of the good trotter Gay Music 2.10 3-5, that racing mostly against pacers last year was three times first, three times second and three times third. We understand that he is offering him for sale and he certainly would be a good addition to a racing stable that requires a handy trotter.

WELL UP
Going over the leading money winning horses of 1956 we were curious to see how the Sol Camp stable trotters and pacers driven by Joe O'Brien showed up. Scott Frost was leading aged trotter with \$85,851; Bond Hanover 2, 2.04 1-5 was leading 2-year-old trotter with \$48,691; Double Scotch 2, 2.03 4-5 won \$19,148 and Time Me 2, 2.04 won \$13,615. In aged pacers Diamond Hal 4, 1.57 2-5 was third with \$86,179 and in 3-year-old pacers Adinowsky 3, 1.59 4-5 was eighth with winnings of \$25,464. In 2-year-old pacers Adios Express, 2, 2.01 was the winner of \$56,192. We think you will agree that it is a remarkable showing for one stable and for one driver.

Trainer Aubrey Rodney has a stable of 21 horses in training, the second largest at Saratoga Raceway, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. When we first started harness racing Aubrey Rodney was our hero. In 1912 he drove Baden to a record 2.03 1/2 and he was the largest money winning trotter in the United States. Aubrey would then be a young man. The fame of Baden travelled as far as Moscow, Russia, and the Czar, wanting to have the best in his stable paid \$35,000 for him, which was considerable remarkable at that time. The nobility of Russia were very fond of racing their horses over the ice and a track was laid out near the Czar's palace where he could observe the sport from large windows with his courtiers.

RUSSIAN TROTTERS
The Russians were keen on breeding trotters and they had a good strain called the Orloffs and were fast developing them into real good performers. The year 1913 great preparations were made for meetings at St. Petersburg and other tracks. They had a little idea that less than a year later they would be plunged into war by Germany. The Czar and his family as our readers know were put to death by the Bolsheviks. Harness racing died out but we understand that there are some of the Orloff breed still being produced and possibly some racing going on.

In common with horse men throughout the Maritimes we learned with the deepest regret of the passing of that splendid gentleman, J. K. Curran at Summerside. Mr. Curran helped greatly to make our sport more popular in the past few years and he was one of the leading promoters in building the Summerside Raceway with its magnificent grand stand and stables. He took an interest in the sport and his stable performed throughout the Maritimes with excellent results. His encouragement and appreciation of driver Cruse Robinson always appealed to us. With his patronage Cruse has proved himself to be one of the best reinsmen and trainers we have. Mr. Curran's many good qualities will be long remembered in this community.

Remember When
Boston Bruins won their first National Hockey League championship 28 years ago tonight by beating Montreal Maroons 3-2 for their third victory in a playoff series. Bruins had won the first two games by 1-0. They went on to beat New York Rangers in two straight games in the Stanley Cup final.

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