

### Back Stretch

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We welcome to this column a noted horseman and driver, W. L. "Bill" MacGregor of Brandon, Manitoba, who enclosed a clipping with a track. He is a native of Brandon, Manitoba. Here is Bill's letter: "This letter is written to convey thanks and sincere appreciation of your Maritime Harness Racing Review in The Guardian under date of Dec. 31, 1954. The paper arrived at my home as a gift from someone. I am a Westerner, almost 65 years of age, but there is something very appealing to me in my mental picture, purely imaginative, about your island, its people and especially its rural aspects. I have read books depicting scenes and people, also have met many who came West. I have often asked about you and always found you were known by the people asked.

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David Silliphant, the skip is the veteran of the quartet in point of experience. We saw him delivering stones when the broom was crowding him in a close battle for height. The two 8-6 victories that qualified them for the Dominion finals were real tests of the young skip's coolness under fire. He had to throw the stone that meant a trip to Sydney, or a heartbreaking miss af-

ter getting so close. The tense situation would have faded many an older curler, but David shooed away the butterflies, and made his shot. His dad, Ralph Silliphant, was a member of Summerside's most famous hockey forward line, Jack Schurman and Chick Gallant teaming up to represent the Club at the Dartmouth meet February 19 and 20.

James Harrison's article on Joe O'Brien has delighted our friend Duffy of the Federation, N. home town. "If I remember the first time I saw Joe was in Frederick in the fall of 1938. He had Aaron L. and Direct L. here. He drove Aaron L. and won his race. Thomas Etter drove Happy L. and was second and Lloyd O'Brien drove Direct L. and finished third. R. M. Webber was the starter that day and before he announced the result of the third heat, I said, 'Bobby, here is something you can announce. Three full brothers won first, second and third money, and two full brothers drove two of them.' I sent the account of this race to L. G. Duffy of The Harness Horse. He told him that was a record down here but probably he had seen a repetition of this in his experience of watching races. He wrote back to me and said he had never witnessed a race like this. In talking to Joe after the race, he said 'I had often thought if Claude could have been there to drive Happy L. it would have been a world's record, and I do not think it is too far from it now, with three full brothers and two brothers driving.'"

The annual meeting of District 11, United States Trotting Association will be held in the Brunswick Hotel, Moncton, at two o'clock on Monday afternoon, February 7th. It is hoped that there will be a large number of horsemen present from various parts of the Maritimes.

Dannie Steele is starting on his 26th straight year of training on the Metropolitan Speedway half mile track near Boston. It is almost sixty years since Dannie was the first rider in a race in this province and at one time he held the track record pacing at Charlottetown with A. d. Mac. time, 2:17 1/4.

The chairman of the Massachusetts Racing Commission has announced the dates for Foxboro's half mile oval as the 60 nights from Monday, June 20 through Saturday, August 27, with four additional nights of the following week to take up postponements. The general manager of Foxboro Raceway is Walter Gibbons, so long associated with Roosevelt Raceway, and he has a new secretary this year in 29-year-old Fred Leonard of Lincoln, Ill. The opening of New England racing season will take place in Maine, May 25th.

The Montreal Standard magazine of last week carried a splendid illustrated article entitled, Pacers On Ice, which featured the annual harness races held on Lake Banook, Dartmouth, N. S., giving colored pictures of winners, the crowds on the ice, horses cooling out, the spectators in the finish line and also the meeting the night before the races of the prominent horsemen from Dartmouth and other parts of Nova Scotia, also New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. So popular are these races that horsemen send their best ice pacers and trotters down from Maine and over from Prince Edward Island. In a telephone message from Fred Lahey to D. K. MacLeod, President of the Victoria Driving Club, Fred stated that the dates for the coming meet are February 19 and 20. Now that the big freeze is on horsemen from the Hunter River, Charlottetown and other parts will be getting ready. Larlee trained the 2-year-olds Rodman, Freeman and Fisherman all miles close to 3.00 today with the final eighths in 20 seconds. The Rimouski stable is owned by L. E. Soucy, Rimouski, Que., and there are eight 2-year-olds in it and a number of aged horses.

The Hon. Dugald MacKinnon Raceway on North River Ice above the Casseway has been examined by officials of the Victoria Driving Club and the ice was found to be 12 to 14 inches thick. A course has been laid off and everything is in readiness for this afternoon's races. A meeting of horsemen was held in the Victoria Driving Club's room a few eve-

### Hunters' Corner

covered with drifting snow and I couldn't identify the species but they were diving ducks and no-pod, or river birds. The Oldsquaw and Golden-eyes (Whistlers) appear to be quite at home amid the ice floes. I was particularly interested in how the Huns were faring and kept a close watch. Nearing Lounger's Creek I spotted something around the base of a telephone pole... a dark rink that moved. The wind had hallowed out a circle in the snow under the pole and left an 8-inch area of bare ground. I stopped the car and was amazed to watch 11 Huns pop out of the hole one after another and scurry off across the crusted snow. They had been pecking and scratching for grit.

This covey appeared in fair shape and I later found where they had established headquarters on the sunny side of an abandoned house. Grassy patches showed a cluster of lilac bushes around signs of continued usage. This covey will manage to pull through if a thaw is not delayed too long. On Wednesday I stood on a windswept slope with my muscles aching from the frost that seeped through layer after layer of sweaters and wondered how many Huns managed to survive even on full stomachs.

On Thursday evening I talked to a farmer-sportsman in the Orwell district. He is feeding six coveys of Huns totaling thirty-six birds. There is one covey of four and three of five and eight each and 11 in the other two. They'll scrap among themselves over which covey will have first chance at the dining table, but forget their differences when bedtime draws near and unite for warmth to tide them through the bitter night. Let's keep our fingers crossed and hope for a thaw of sufficient duration to bare some slopes. Snow is an essential for hauling manure out to the fields and bringing home firewood, so don't keep them crossed too long for fear it all goes.

On Thursday evening, February 10th the monthly meeting of the Queens County Branch Game Association will be held in the Prince of Wales College Auditorium. Whether or not the program instituted to feed the Hungarian partridge is achieving results is a question that will be taken up. The meeting will commence at 7:30 to allow the youngsters time to view the pictures before it is too late. Some of them have to be home at a certain hour. The heat will be turned on later as a "hot subject" is slated for discussion with no holds barred.

The Summerside Aces, in their first hockey game of the season, look definitely stronger than last year's "intermediate" B" Maritime champs. In fact, at least one member of last year's team failed to make the 1955 squad. They look good to take complete charge of the Western League, and it is doubtful if the other teams can even make things interesting. That will be bad, if it is so, and we think it a crying shame that this power-packed team can't get into a circuit worthy of its ability.

The hockey fans of Summerside and vicinity are hungry for the popular winter pastime right now, but how long they will continue to pay to see the Aces administered to by the opposition is a debatable question. Coach Laysh Schurman is endeavouring to bring stronger teams into the town, and the Parkdale Flyers will appear at Raceway Stadium Saturday night. This should be a bang-up contest as the Flyers have some of the cream of the hockey crop in the capital city. As long as we can get exhibition games of that caliber the crowds should patronize the new rink on Notre Dame.

Bonnie Howatt is a very slippery boy to hold when he gets over the blue line. Vance Harris seems to skate faster than ever, and Ron McArthur looks like a late express trying to make up time when he dashes down the ice. The two Airforce boys, Baird and Scotland, looked pretty good in the fast going. Veteran Joe Bernard hasn't lost too much hockey ability over the years, and Benny Grady is once again playing hockey as he did in the palmy days when he and Laysh Schurman were the most feared do in minor ranks.

The response to the appeal to help save the covey's has been most encouraging. Tons of wheat and shore sand have been bagged and distributed and on Friday letters went into the mail addressed to every school teacher in the rural sections of the province to be read to the pupils under their charge. The letter explains what caused led to the covey's being in dire straits and what to do to help the Huns. Pheasants will also benefit. It is hoped that the letters will make the school children "partridge conscious" and cause them to help any covey that happens to be in their neighborhood.

Our farmers deserve credit for the manner in which they rallied to the aid of the birds even before the appeal for aid went out. I was told today of one farmer who fed a covey in his farmyard on one of those evenings when the frost was making the buildings creak and out of pity, and on the off chance they'd take advantage of shelter offered, left the barn floor door ajar. In the morning he found them bedded down out of sight in a pile of chaff cosy as bugs in a rug. The Hun is an opportunist if ever there was one.

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### The Week at S. D. U.

Last Saturday night the students of St. Dunstan's took part in three events—a hockey game, a basketball game and a play. The basketball game, played in the college gym against the team from U.N.B. was won by the Saints by a score of 37-41. From the beginning of the second quarter onwards nobody doubted that St. Dunstan's would win.

At the end of the first half we led the Red Raiders 36-15, the main marksmen for the Saints being Jack Reardon and Gus Dorais, who, by the way, was playing with a broken finger on his left hand. The second half saw S.D.U. lag to a certain extent in their scoring but nevertheless the team kept ahead of U.N.B. by a very wide margin.

The end of the game saw St. Dunstan's the winner by the lopsided score of 57-41. The chief scorers, as in almost all basketball games played by the Saints were Reardon and Dorais. Reardon, with his spectacular hook shots and Dorais with his dippy-doodling had the fans on their feet cheering madly many times during the game.

Bob Mooney, inch for inch probably the best guard in the Maritimes, was third in the scoring and showed his guarding ability probably better than he did in any other intercollegiate game. One incident will prove his ability. A certain player on the U.N.B. team scored several baskets during the opening minutes of the game. It could easily be seen that if he kept up his scoring he could be a real threat to the victory-bound Saints. Then Mooney was "put on him" and the short, stocky player from New Hampshire so ruled up.

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Jittery as an ingenious speaking her first lines in a Broadway play, the boys went down to a smashing 14-2 defeat the first time they met the P.W.C. boys. Out of sympathy for the Summerside boys, the news reporter made it look a little closer than it really was. But gradually Silliphant, Letoury, Daley and Morrison settled down and began to play the game they are capable of. They came from nowhere to win three straight victories on the final day, two of them against P. W. C. to win the island title.

David Silliphant, the skip is the veteran of the quartet in point of experience. We saw him delivering stones when the broom was crowding him in a close battle for height. The two 8-6 victories that qualified them for the Dominion finals were real tests of the young skip's coolness under fire. He had to throw the stone that meant a trip to Sydney, or a heartbreaking miss af-

ter getting so close. The tense situation would have faded many an older curler, but David shooed away the butterflies, and made his shot. His dad, Ralph Silliphant, was a member of Summerside's most famous hockey forward line, Jack Schurman and Chick Gallant teaming up to represent the Club at the Dartmouth meet February 19 and 20.

James Harrison's article on Joe O'Brien has delighted our friend Duffy of the Federation, N. home town. "If I remember the first time I saw Joe was in Frederick in the fall of 1938. He had Aaron L. and Direct L. here. He drove Aaron L. and won his race. Thomas Etter drove Happy L. and was second and Lloyd O'Brien drove Direct L. and finished third. R. M. Webber was the starter that day and before he announced the result of the third heat, I said, 'Bobby, here is something you can announce. Three full brothers won first, second and third money, and two full brothers drove two of them.' I sent the account of this race to L. G. Duffy of The Harness Horse. He told him that was a record down here but probably he had seen a repetition of this in his experience of watching races. He wrote back to me and said he had never witnessed a race like this. In talking to Joe after the race, he said 'I had often thought if Claude could have been there to drive Happy L. it would have been a world's record, and I do not think it is too far from it now, with three full brothers and two brothers driving.'"

The annual meeting of District 11, United States Trotting Association will be held in the Brunswick Hotel, Moncton, at two o'clock on Monday afternoon, February 7th. It is hoped that there will be a large number of horsemen present from various parts of the Maritimes.

Dannie Steele is starting on his 26th straight year of training on the Metropolitan Speedway half mile track near Boston. It is almost sixty years since Dannie was the first rider in a race in this province and at one time he held the track record pacing at Charlottetown with A. d. Mac. time, 2:17 1/4.

The Montreal Standard magazine of last week carried a splendid illustrated article entitled, Pacers On Ice, which featured the annual harness races held on Lake Banook, Dartmouth, N. S., giving colored pictures of winners, the crowds on the ice, horses cooling out, the spectators in the finish line and also the meeting the night before the races of the prominent horsemen from Dartmouth and other parts of Nova Scotia, also New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. So popular are these races that horsemen send their best ice pacers and trotters down from Maine and over from Prince Edward Island. In a telephone message from Fred Lahey to D. K. MacLeod, President of the Victoria Driving Club, Fred stated that the dates for the coming meet are February 19 and 20. Now that the big freeze is on horsemen from the Hunter River, Charlottetown and other parts will be getting ready. Larlee trained the 2-year-olds Rodman, Freeman and Fisherman all miles close to 3.00 today with the final eighths in 20 seconds. The Rimouski stable is owned by L. E. Soucy, Rimouski, Que., and there are eight 2-year-olds in it and a number of aged horses.

The Hon. Dugald MacKinnon Raceway on North River Ice above the Casseway has been examined by officials of the Victoria Driving Club and the ice was found to be 12 to 14 inches thick. A course has been laid off and everything is in readiness for this afternoon's races. A meeting of horsemen was held in the Victoria Driving Club's room a few eve-

### The Week at S. D. U.

Last Saturday night the students of St. Dunstan's took part in three events—a hockey game, a basketball game and a play. The basketball game, played in the college gym against the team from U.N.B. was won by the Saints by a score of 37-41. From the beginning of the second quarter onwards nobody doubted that St. Dunstan's would win.

At the end of the first half we led the Red Raiders 36-15, the main marksmen for the Saints being Jack Reardon and Gus Dorais, who, by the way, was playing with a broken finger on his left hand. The second half saw S.D.U. lag to a certain extent in their scoring but nevertheless the team kept ahead of U.N.B. by a very wide margin.

The end of the game saw St. Dunstan's the winner by the lopsided score of 57-41. The chief scorers, as in almost all basketball games played by the Saints were Reardon and Dorais. Reardon, with his spectacular hook shots and Dorais with his dippy-doodling had the fans on their feet cheering madly many times during the game.

Bob Mooney, inch for inch probably the best guard in the Maritimes, was third in the scoring and showed his guarding ability probably better than he did in any other intercollegiate game. One incident will prove his ability. A certain player on the U.N.B. team scored several baskets during the opening minutes of the game. It could easily be seen that if he kept up his scoring he could be a real threat to the victory-bound Saints. Then Mooney was "put on him" and the short, stocky player from New Hampshire so ruled up.

The monthly meeting of the Queens County Branch Game Association will be held in the Prince of Wales College Auditorium. Whether or not the program instituted to feed the Hungarian partridge is achieving results is a question that will be taken up. The meeting will commence at 7:30 to allow the youngsters time to view the pictures before it is too late. Some of them have to be home at a certain hour. The heat will be turned on later as a "hot subject" is slated for discussion with no holds barred.

The Summerside Aces, in their first hockey game of the season, look definitely stronger than last year's "intermediate" B" Maritime champs. In fact, at least one member of last year's team failed to make the 1955 squad. They look good to take complete charge of the Western League, and it is doubtful if the other teams can even make things interesting. That will be bad, if it is so, and we think it a crying shame that