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### Back Stretch

Continued from page 6

horses are also owned by Hanover Shoe Farms or members of the Myers and Sheppard families. Many of them will be making the headlines. One of the tops is Solicitor, who took a three-year-old record of 1:57 2/5, and Hanover Shoe Farms paid \$150,000 for him at the end of that campaign.

The Ben and Gib White stable is of course the oldest and most famous there, it being the pioneer to winter in Orlando and to show others the possibilities of the climate. Mr. White was born in Canada and as a young man entered the employ of C. F. Hamlin at Village Farm, East Aurora, N. Y. The head trainer there was the stallion Chimes, which he paid Senator Leland Stanford of California \$20,000 for a two-year-old. Chimes was a real family founder. Latterly most of his descendants have been of the pacing strain and his blood is carried on through The Abbe, Abbedale, Hal Dale, Adios and many other sires and champions in the United States, and locally by Abbe Worthy and Abner T. Clegg.

Ben White's first great bid to fame came in 1916 when he took over the training and driving of Lee Axworthy and won with him giving him the world's stallion trotting record of 1:58 1/4—a mark that stood for over a quarter of a century. It would take pages to tell of his successful accomplishments but we may say that he also drove his son Gibson's four-year-old trotting mare Rosalind, to a world's trotting record of 1:59 1/4 and in 1938 set up the present world's record for a trotting mare of 1:56 3/5 with Rosalind at Lexington, Ky. It was from the Ben White stable that Mary Merk 2:08 2/5, well known trotter in the Earle Semple stable, came.

The only horse that we can remember of that came here from Village Farm, owned by C. F. Hamlin, was Shadow Chimes 2:05 that was given his record by Ed F. Geers. He was without question the handsomest horse that appeared on the streets of Charlottetown—tall, a bright bay, jet black mane and tail, upheaded with a flashing eye and everybody looked for him, particularly as his owner, the late Fred Robins, had him hooked in winter to a high speed sleigh with a black body and red runners. Mr. Robins wore a beautiful raccoon coat and black peaked fur cap. Shadow Chimes could turn on a dime and get away like a bullet and it was a sight to see him speed up Queen Street and Great George Street. He was never raced here but in speed for a short distance anyway, he could move away from anything we had at that time.

We are glad to see that the Miramichi Agricultural Exhibition Association, Ltd., whose secretary is A. D. Napke, P. O. Box 359, Newcastle, N. B. is again sponsoring the 7th renewal of the \$1,000 Miramichi Pace, an early closer to be raced Thursday, July 1st, 1954, at Chatham, N. B. Horses are eligible that have not won \$100 or more at either gait. The race will be on the three heat plan and is open only to Maritime and Quebec owned horses and the horses must have residence in one of these provinces three months previous to July 1st. The fee for entry is \$50 and the first payment is \$10 due April 1st, 1954, \$20 due May 15th and the third payment of \$20 must be made on June 15th when horses must be named. There will be supporting classes as follows: Free For All Trot and Pace, three dashes, \$200 per dash; trot and pace, two dashes, \$125 per dash, and a trot and pace, two dashes, \$125 per dash.

This \$1,000 stake has been promoted in the Maritimes for several years and has always been a great success. It was won in 1952 by Annuncio, a five-year-old by Proctor, with 6-5-1; Proctor's Boy, 1-2-3; Maxie Federal, 4-1-4-2; Time, 2:17 3/5, 2:17 2/5, 2:21, 2:20. Annuncio was owned by William McCombs, Newcastle, N. B. and driven by T. C. Collett. Proctor's Boy was owned by Charles J. Craig, Lower Sackville, N. S. and driven by Philip Craig, and Maxie Federal by James S. Watt, Little River, Que., and driven by Wib Jardine. In 1953 it was won by Plus 3, by Federal, with 1-1-1; Danny Scott, 3, by Daniel Hanover, 3-3-1; Miss Hazel Grove, 2-2-3; Margo Dale, 4-5-2; four other starters. Time, 2:17, 2:17 2/5, 2:18 2/5. Plus was owned by William McCombs, Newcastle, N. B., and driven by T. C. Collette. Danny Scott was owned by Clarence B. Smith, French Village, and driven by Frank S. Carr.

While Willard MacDonald and Mrs. MacDonald were visiting in Florida a deal was completed with Cmdr. George Buntin whereby Miss Knox 2:09 3/5 is now Willard's property. Miss Knox is a very well-bred mare, being by Highland Scott 1:59 1/4 and out of an exceptionally well-bred dam. In her racing career she has won almost \$9,000 and is still eligible to the 2:16 pace. We congratulate Willard on his buy because after her racing days are over she will be an exceptionally good brood mare.

Other visitors to Florida recently were Rankin McLeane and Roy Bevan. They drove down from Montreal to Miami, took a scot

across by plane to Havana, Cuba, spent a couple of days there and returning to Florida saw the matinee races of March 13th at Orlando. That afternoon the three-year-old Lullab by Volomite, dam, Gypsy Hanover, owned and driven by Walter Candler of Decatur, Georgia, won the classified trot in 2:11 1/5—the fastest mile stepped in the south this year. Walter Candler is well along in his 70's and is the man who was responsible for putting Coca-Cola on the market. He has owned many of the best horses that have raced in the past few years. The classified trot was won by the three-year-old Secret Charm, driven by Billy Houghton, in 2:21 3/5. In the classified pace the three-year-old Medley Hanover (E. Pownall) was 2-1; Commanding Way 3, by King's Counsel, 1-2. Time, 2:15, 2:16 2/5. Several other good races were on the card but Rankin said it was just too hot for him, the thermo showing 84 degrees.

Harness horsemen at Aiken, S. C., were treated to a sight when Tommy Murphy, who retired from racing over 25 years ago, helped Ned Bower train the Far Hills, N. J. stable, owned by Leonard Buck. The assistant trainer, Joe Lighthill, was in hospital and the Bower operation hence Tommy's filling in. Tommy Murphy was without question one of the greatest, possibly the greatest, trainer, driver, balancer and packer of great harness race horses the world has ever known. During the years that he conducted a public stable he was invariably top driver and winner of the most important stakes and he left a whole row of world's records, some of which have since been displaced. We always thought it a pity that Mr. Murphy did not write a book on harness racing giving his experiences in training and balancing the great horses he drove. It would be a most valuable guide for the young horsemen, and older horsemen too, of today. If such a book were printed we would be a number one subscriber.

This is considered the greatest season in harness racing since its inception at Santa Anita Park, California. The meeting opened on March 12th and at last reports both attendance and mutual handle records have all been broken. The real driving star of the opening was an amateur reinsman, Ed Schafer of Aberdeen, Washington. He started two horses on the first Saturday, had a front ride behind the four-year-old King's Counsel filly in 2:05 3/5. In the second division of a \$4,000 pace he got home first with Lumber Lady over a field of thirteen. The mile was a new record of 2:05 and the backers cashed two dollar tickets worth \$40.70.

Harry Fitzpatrick, whose name has been famous along the Grand Circuit the last 15 years, had two early winners in the four-year-old trotter Eastern Shore in 2:06, and his son drove Hal Gray, a three-year-old pacer by Hal Dale, in 2:06 2/5. Another by King's Counsel 1:56 to catch the eyes of the horsemen was the five-year-old

(Continued on Page 8)

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### Hunters' Corner

Continued from page 6

the season on Geese, Ducks, Pheasants and Hungarian Partridge. Look for the ballot in today's Charlottetown Guardian. The opening date last year was October 10 on all four. If you are in agreement with this opening date you may write SAME AS IN 1953 across the ballot and mail it to H. R. Vessey, 92 Green Street, Charlottetown, with your name and address thereon. Ballots must be mailed by April 10th, 1954. If no ballot is available you may send in your choice of opening dates by letter.

There is a wide difference of opinion among gunners regarding the opening date of their choice. Some want the duck season as early as September 15. Others desire a season that gives them the late November and early December shooting. It is impossible to satisfy both groups. Less than 60 days is allotted for the migratory bird seasons on geese and ducks so if there is an earlier opening date there is an earlier closing date. So far as I can learn there is no kick on the present season as applies to Huns and Pheasants. It's a foregone conclusion that this plebiscite will not settle the controversial question of geese and duck seasons. It would require a wide scope of dates to satisfy everyone if that were possible.

The present opening date, October 10, was selected as the nearest acceptable date. It was not expected that it would please everyone but was decided upon as a sort of compromise between the two factions and at the same time giving our game a much needed break. It is the consensus of opinion that it will be difficult to better the seasons as they now stand. The result of the voting will be watched with interest as well as the volume of votes mailed in. My guess is that a big headache is in prospect for those

who have the chore of tabulating the count with a very acute pain puzzle out.



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