



Monday, February 24, 2020

And the Horse of the Year is... Shartin N

History made as Shartin N becomes the first pacing mare to win the Horse of the Year award. The New Zealand-born, U.S.-raced mare was also voted Pacer of the Year. Greenshoe was voted Trotter of the Year at Dan Patch Awards held Sunday night in Orlando, FL.

by Ken Weingartner for USHWA



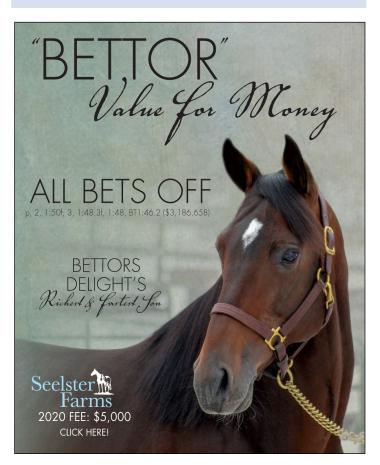
Dave Landry

Shartin N (Tim Tetrick, winning the 2019 Lady Liberty in a world record 1:46.4).

Shartin N on Sunday night became the first pacing mare to be named Horse of the Year, receiving harness racing's top honor to cap the U.S. Harness Writers Association's Dan Patch Awards banquet at Rosen Shingle Creek resort. The New Zealand import also became the first horse bred outside North America to receive the award.

Shartin N, who also was named Pacer of the Year, captured 83 votes in Horse of the Year balloting. Three-year-old colt pacer Bettor's Wish was second with 42 and 3-year-old colt

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Perfect time to bring Des Smith Classic back to Rideau	page 10



The Sale Of Champions Is Proud To Have Sold

GREENSHOE 2019 Trotter Of The Year

AND 3YO MALE TROTTER OF THE YEAR

2017 LEXINGTON SELECTED YEARLING SALE GRADUATE

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Dave Landry

Shartin N's trainer, Jimmy King, Jr., was also the recipient of the Good Guy Award.

trotter Greenshoe, the Trotter of the Year, was third with 14.

Also receiving Horse of the Year votes were Manchego (three), Warrawee Ubeaut (two), and Atlanta, Six Pack, and When Dovescry (one each).

In balloting for Pacer of the Year, Shartin N received 94 votes while Bettor's Wish got 48. Warrawee Ubeaut (three) and Lather Up and McWicked (one each) rounded out the Pacer of the Year voting.

Greenshoe led Trotter of the Year balloting with 95 votes, followed by Manchego with 23, Atlanta with nine, and Gimpanzee and Six Pack with six each. Real Cool Sam (three), Bold Eagle and When Dovescry (two each), and Guardian Angel As (one) completed the balloting.

Shartin N, who was a 6-year-old in 2019, is the fifth female pacer to be named Horse of the Year and first since 2-year-old filly JK She'salady in 2014. The others were 3-year-old fillies Rainbow Blue (2004), Bunny Lake (2001) and Fan Hanover (1981).

Trained by Jim King Jr. and driven by Tim Tetrick, Shartin N

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p,2,1:52.3s; 3,1:48.3s, 1:50.3h; 4,1:48.1s (\$1,457,405)
SPORTSWRITER - ALLAMERICAN SUMMER
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Harness Racing Update

won 15 of 19 races and finished worse than second only once. She earned \$982,177 for owners Richard Poillucci, Jo Ann Looney-King, and Tim Tetrick LLC. She is the first Horse of the Year for the ownership group and trainer King. She is the third Horse of the Year for Tetrick as a driver.

Shartin N's wins last year included eight races worth six figures --- the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series championship, Roses Are Red, Lady Liberty, Golden Girls, Artiscape, Clara Barton, Betsey Ross, and Sam "Chip" Noble III Memorial.

Her 1:46.4 victory in the Lady Liberty on Aug. 3 at The Meadowlands is the fastest mile by a female pacer in history.

Shartin N, a daughter of Tintin In America out of Bagdarin bred by Grant (G J) Crabbe, was runner-up to McWicked in Horse of the Year voting in 2018.

Trotter of the Year Greenshoe won 10 of 13 races and never was worse than second. His victories included the Kentucky Futurity and Dr. Harry M. Zweig Memorial. He was second in the Hambletonian, Breeders Crown and Earl Beal Jr. Memorial.

Greenshoe was trained by Marcus Melander, driven by Brian Sears, and owned by Courant Inc., Hans Backe, Lars Granqvist, and Morten Langli. A son of Father Patrick out of Designed



Claus Andersen

Shartin N is owned by Jo Ann Looney-King, Tim Tetrick (above) and Richard Poillucci.



We know it's early, but we couldn't wait to share the consensus on

FIRST TWO-YEAR-OLDS by CONTROL THE MOMENT

They are drawing **rave reviews** from Dustin Jones, Blake Macintosh, Chantal Mitchell, Kyle Bossence, Barry Whitten, and Dean Eckley

"Big, fluid stride"

"Floats over the ground"

Wants to go on"

"Great attitude"

"Excellent manners"

"In my top group"

"Light on their feet"

Easy to gait "

CONTROL THE MOMENT

Wery smart?

p.2. 1:49.4s. 3. 1:48.2 (\$1.227.832) Well Said - Lifesliltreasure by Life Sign

Stud Fee: \$6,000 CDN.
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Dave Landry

Greenshoe (with trainer Marcus Melander at Red Mile) was voted the 2019 Trotter of the Year.

To Be, he was bred by Al Libfeld and Marvin Katz.

The announcements of Horse, Pacer, and Trotter of the Year were made during Sunday's banquet. Previously announced divisional champions also were honored at the event.

Division-winning pacers were 2-year-old colt Tall Dark Stranger, 2-year-old filly Lyons Sentinel, 3-year-old colt Bettor's Wish, 3-year-old filly Warrawee Ubeaut, stallion McWicked, and mare Shartin N. Division-winning trotters were 2-year-old gelding Real Cool Sam, 2-year-old filly Ramona Hill, 3-year-old colt Greenshoe, 3-year-old filly When Dovescry, stallion Six Pack, and mare Atlanta.

Other honorees included Stan Bergstein-Proximity Award winners Joe Faraldo and the Libfeld-Katz partnership, Driver of the Year Dexter Dunn, Trainer of the Year Marcus Melander, Owner of the Year Courant Inc., Breeder of the Year Brittany Farms, and Rising Star Bob McClure.

Also recognized Sunday at the banquet were the members of the 2019 Hall of Fame class, which will be inducted in July: Tom Charters, Jeff Gural, Bill Popfinger, and Tetrick.

Other award winners were:

Caretaker of the Year - Courtney Polan

USHWA President's Awards - Don Marean, Adriano Sorella

USHWAN of the Year – Derick Giwner

Breakthrough — Dawnelle Mock

Unsung Hero – Wanda Polisseni







Dave Landry

Shartin N is the third Horse of the Year driven primarily by Tim Tetrick.

Good Guy-Jimmy King, Jr.

John Hervey writing awards — Melissa Keith, Derick Giwner George Smallsreed photography awards — Chris Gooden and Mark Hall

Sam McKee broadcasting awards — Woodbine Entertainment Group





New Image Media photo

\$225,000 OSS SUPER FINAL WINNER

TATTOO ARTIST p,2, 1:52s -'19 (\$240,405) \$227,359 earned in the OSS (2YOPCs)

EXAMINER HANOVER p, 2, 1:52.2s-'19 (\$158,946)

Finished 2nd in the \$225,000 OSS Super Final (2YOPCs)

KAT p, 2, 1:54s-'19 (\$103,568)

Finished 3rd in the OSS Grassroots Final (2YOPFs) | Race timed in 1:51.1

ONE FOR JULIUS p, 2, 1:52.4s-'19 (\$77,435)

A finalist in the OSS Super Final (2YOPCs) | Race timed in 1:51.4



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RANKED 2nd IN THE OSS FOR MONEY-WINNING 2YOPCs

HES WATCHING

p, 2, 1:50f, 3, 1:46.4 (\$1,129,215) | Bh 2011 (15h) American Ideal-Baberhood, by Real Desire

2020 FEE \$5,000 CDN.

Loyalty Discounts Apply



Amazing facts about Shartin N's Horse of the Year achievement

by Bob Heyden

With her Horse of the Year achievement, Shartin N becomes....

- The first 6-year-old pacer to be voted Horse of the Year (HOY) since 1952 when Good Time last did it. Shartin N is just the just the fourth 6-year-old to be so named. Pronto Don in 1951 and Moni Maker in 1999 are the others.
- The first pacing mare of any age to be voted Horse of the Year.
- The first Down Under bred horse to be named HOY in the United States. Cardigan Bay was sixth in the balloting in 1966, and upon his retirement, he had \$1,000,837 as the first millionaire in the sport's history.
- The fifth horse and first in 30 years to go from runner-up in the HOY voting the year prior to the winner. It last happened in 1988-1989 for Matts Scooter. Prior, Su Mac Lad did so in 1961, 1962; Scott Frost in 1955 before going back to back in 1956-57, as did Adios Butler in 1959 then doubling up in 1960-61.
- The first female pacer to be first or second in the HOY ballot in back to back years. Shartin N was the 2018 runner-up to McWicked.
- The first HOY to win on Hambletonian Day since Bee A Magician did it in 2013.

Meanwhile....

• Tim Tetrick is the first driver of the HOY (also part-owner) who goes into the Hall Of Fame the same year as having the HOY. In 1970, both men who drove Fresh Yankee, that year's



Dave Landry

Shartin N, the 2019 Horse of the Year and Pacer of the Year.

HOY, went into the Hall of Fame - Joe O'Brien and Sanders Russell. ullet

- Jo Ann Looney-Jim King Jr., and Richard Poilluci all are winning the Horse of the Year award for the first time.
- Shartin N's 1:46.4 world record on Hambletonian Day was 1/5th better than the prior female standard of 1:47 by Shebestingin 10/5/13 at the Red Mile.
- She becomes just the fifth female Pacer of the Year, following Silk Stockings in 1975, Fan Hanover in 1981, Bunny Lake in 2001 and Rainbow Blue in 2004. (Conversely, 17 females have been voted "Trotter Of The Year" in the same time frame).
- Shartin N is both the winningest female pacer for a single season (2018, over \$1 million) and the only female pacer to better \$2 million combined in consecutive seasons.
- Her 34 wins in 2018 and 2019 combined (19 and then 15) were #1 among the top 50 money winners in 2018 and tied for first at 15 in 2019.





KMD/BDA

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT... HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED IN 2019

\$9 MILLION IN PERFORMER EARNINGS,

including 2019 Hambletonian Champion, Canada's Horse of the Year & 3YOTC of the Year, **FORBIDDEN TRADE!**

#2 IN NORTH AMERICA - ALL AGE EARNINGS

2nd only to Muscle Hill—book full & closed

#1 IN THE ONTARIO SIRES STAKES

with performers earning \$1.2 million more than his nearest competitor

\$95.7 MILLION EARNED BY ALL AGE PERFORMERS

\$119,060 average earnings per starter

1 WINNER OF OVER \$4 MILLION

Hall of Famer BEE A MAGICIAN

2 WINNERS OF OVER \$2 MILLION

EMOTICON HANOVER & DAYLON MAGICIAN

8 MILLIONAIRES



KADABRA

2, 1:57, 3, 1:52.4s, 4, 1:51.3 (\$2,190,707) Primrose Lane - Quillo by Trottin Happy

2020 FEE \$10,000 U.S.



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Playing the mating game

by Alan Leavitt

As a lifetime market breeder, doing the matings for our mares has always been relatively easy. For each mare, I just pick the stallion that I think will produce the highest-priced yearling. That was the way Jim Harrison did the matings when he was running Hanover Shoe Farms, which he passed on to me when he took over at Lana Lobell, and anything that was good enough for Jim has always been good enough for me.

Obviously my method takes into account the relative sizes of the two horses involved and common faults, like bench knees, which don't need any emphasis. The genius of veterinary surgeons such as Dr. Larry Bramlage and Dr. Alan Ruggles, both of Rood and Riddle, lets you breed certain faults in a horse's legs that they can surgically correct. We had a good producing pacing mare who stood out in both front legs, and so did all of her foals until Dr. Bramlage worked his magic and each one stood perfectly straight for the rest of their lives.

One concept to be avoided is the idea of a Golden Cross. The fact that a handful of mares by a certain sire produced some good horses by another sire has no scientific validity whatsoever. Like the Unicorn, the Golden Cross is an imaginary beast.

If one does want to try for something special, inbreeding is the way to go. Just to make sure everyone understands the term, inbreeding occurs when the same horse's name occurs twice when the sum of the generations in which it appears is six or less. Thus a horse sired by Walner, a grandson of Conway Hall, out of a mare by Wishing Stone, also by Conway Hall, would be inbred 3 x 3 to Conway Hall.

When the sum of the generations in which the same name appears twice is seven or eight, the horse thus bred is considered Line-bred. When the sum of the generation is eight or higher, a horse so bred is considered to be Outcrossed.

Inbreeding was described by Jim Harrison as like playing catch with a bottle of nitro-glycerin. One can't be too careful. When you inbreed, certain common traits are magnified. Obviously you want to only magnify speed, soundness, correct conformation, and sensibility. Which means the two individuals you choose to inbreed with must be as near perfect as horses can be.

In the founding generations of any equine breed, inbreeding is the key. Look at any of the pedigrees of any of the first few generations of standardbreds, and they read like the lyrics to that old Country and Western novelty song, *I'm My Own Grandpa* (I have the complete lyrics, if anybody wants them).

Once the breed is established, as ours is, inbreeding becomes a tricky proposition. Like the wife of a Pennsylvania Dutch couple who had three sets of twins, when questioned by a visiting tourist from New York who asked, "Twins every time?" She answered, "No, no, hundreds and hundreds of times, nothing at all."

There probably are hundreds of times inbreeding has produced nothing of note, none of which have been recorded. But there are horses such as CR Kay Suzy, whose paternal grandsire and maternal granddam are full brother and sister, who show what can happen when inbreeding works.

Rainbow Blue, a truly great pacing filly and mare, was also bred like a line out of *I'm My Own Grandpa*. So it can work, and when it does, you can just see the sparks fly. Personally, I almost always go where I think we'll do best in the sales ring, but every now and then, I like to see if I can make the sparks fly.

N.B. Even when you're breeding strictly for the market, there are a number of considerations to take note of. A first-year stallion is always a good bet. There's always a good market for the first crop by any horse that did well on the track.

A second-year stud is dicey. You're betting the horse hits with his first crop, and if he doesn't, you're in trouble. Parenthetically, many of our best sires showed up in their second crop, not their first. And many of the sires who hit like gangbusters with their first crop never lived up to those heights again. If there's some logic here, I can't find it.

Third-year horses are equally risky. So it boils down to either first-year stallions or ones who are well established, which means a handsome stud fee.

But I've already talked about that, and the Democratic debate is about to start. Now there's a bigger challenge to pick a winner than who to breed your mare to!

CLICK HERETo Share This Story









2, 1:54.2, 3, Q1:51.3 (\$1,628,649) Bh 2010 (16.1h) RC Royalty - Bourbon N Grits by Donerail

HIS FIRST TWO CROPS WERE INCREDIBLE

& INCLUDED
CANADA'S 2YOTC OF THE YEAR
HP ROYAL THEO!

2 & 3-YEAR-OLDS DOMINATED IN THE OSS!

166 starts - 89 finished in the money

RANKED 2ND IN THE OSS (2yotc earnings)

RANKED 3RD IN THE OSS (combined 2 & 3yo earnings)

RANKED 8TH IN NORTH AMERICA

(2yo earnings)

11 - \$100,000+ WINNERS

4 of them were 2YOs in 2019!

HP ROYAL THEO

2, 1:54.2s-'19 (\$286,040)

THREE FIFTY TWO

2, 1:55.4s-'19 (\$184,048)

WARRAWEE VICKY 2, 1:55.4s-'19 (\$173,265)

ROYAL ESTEEM

3, 1:54.3s-'19 (\$164,319)

ROYAL RHYTHM

3, 1:55.2s-'19 (\$117,910)

LIFE IS A FEAST

2, 1:55.4f-'19 (\$113,475)

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Palo Alto Stock Farm and Tattersalls Sales Arena

by Dean A. Hoffman

Palo Alto Stock Farm, Palo Alto, CA

Almost 35,000 students matriculate at the famous Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA, and they are served by a staff exceeding 12,000 people.

While the university is among the most respected in the world, it's doubtful if many students, faculty or administrators realize that they tread daily on hallowed harness racing soil.

Before Stanford University became famous, this was the site of Palo Alto Stock Farm, the darling of railroad tycoon and California governor Leland Stanford. One of his passions

was trotting horses and his long-vanished trotting empire just a few miles from the Pacific Ocean produced some of the foundation stock of the standardbred.

Stanford was an enormously wealthy and powerful businessman and, apart from serving as governor, he also represented the Golden State in the United States Senate.

Most noteworthy of the Palo Alto Stock Farm stallions was Electioneer. Since the offspring of Hambletonian 10 were all the rage introtting in the post-Civil War era, Stanford sent a team of horsemen to the East in quest of the best son of Hambletonian available. They selected Electioneer, an 1868 foal that that came to the American West from New York in 1877.

He sired the star stallion Chimes from the foundation mare Beautiful Bells and thus established a remarkably strong and enduring male line. Ironically, it began as a trotting male line and in the next century became the dominant male pacing line.

Stanford hated pacers the way that Captain Ahab hated the white whale Moby Dick. It was said that Stanford issued a standing order to his farm staff: if one of his horses displayed any proclivity for pacing, that horse had to be banished from the farm by sundown.

It is therefore the height of irony that the male line of



All that remains of Palo Alto Stock Farm is the "red barn" that has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1985. Nearby is a statue of the great stallion Electioneer.



YOUR SIRE CHOICE IS EASY & WON'T BREAK THE BANK

Sportsurvices A PERENNIAL LEADING SIRE

\$9 MILLION EARNED BY ALL AGE PERFORMERS IN 2019

Ranking him 2nd in Canada and 7th in North America

2019 ONTARIO SIRES STAKES

RANKED #1 IN THE OSS - 2YOPC earnings

RANKED #2 IN THE OSS - combined 2 & 3YO earnings

(to Bettor's Delight - Fee \$20,000 Cdn.- Book Full & Closed)

\$37.3 MILLION IN COMBINED PROGENY EARNINGS

Average Earnings of \$63,890 | Yearlings sought after EVERY YEAR

SPORTSWRITER

p,2, 1:49.2s, 3,1:48.3s (\$1,649,411) Bh 2007 (15.3h) Artsplace-Precious Beauty, by Jate Lobell **2020 Fee: \$6,500 CDN**

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Harness Racing Update

Electioneer is quite vibrant today as a male line of many great pacers, mostly notably the lines of Hal Dale, his son Adios, and Hal Dale's grandson Meadow Skipper.

Chimes sired a son named The Abbe, foaled in 1903, and The Abbe's son Abbedale was born in 1917.

Then came Hal Dale, the most influential pacing stallion of the last century. Hal Dale was foaled in 1926 and his son Adios, who needs no introduction, was a foal of 1940.

The lion-hearted pacing star Good Time was a son of Hal Dale from the foal crop of 1946. Another son of Hal Dale was Dale Frost who sired Meadow Skipper, a 1960 foal whose descendants dominated pacing in the 1970s and 1980s.

Stanford, of course, never lived to endure the ignominy of having established a powerful pacing line. The lasting innovation at Palo Alto was the emphasis Stanford and his trainers placed on early speed in their trotters. The typical standardbred of that era was large-boned, coarse, and slow to find its gait and speed. They required very patient mechanics to make them trot. Heavy shoes and slow miles — as well as patience — were the keystones of making trotters in that era.

Trainer Charles Marvin, however, used innovative training techniques to make early speed with among the offspring of Electioneer and soon the stallion's sons and daughters held numerous trotting records. Foals began to get lessons in harness as young as five months. Yes, Five months. They weren't raced then, of course, but Marvin's trotting kindergarten resulted in a blitzkrieg of early speed in trotting horses had previously been deemed possible. Leland Stanford and Charles Marvin were the men most responsible for the emphasis on early speed in harness racing today.

Trotters such as Sunol, Arion, and Palo Alto mean little today but they were living legends during their lives.

Arion started slowly in training but at the end of his two-year-old season, he'd taken a trotting mark of 2:10-3/4. Even the fastest 3-year-old trotter had only gone a half-second faster.

Arion's dramatic early speed caused J. Malcolm Forbes to pay \$125,000 for him before his three-year-old season. The colt was used for breeding service before racing and it seemed to drain some of the vigor from the precocious colt.

Stanford and his wife had one son, who died as a teenager from typhoid fever and his grief -stricken parents decided to establish a university in their son's memory. The first student to enroll at Leland Stanford, Jr. University in 1891 was a young man from Iowa named Herbert Hoover, who later became a U.S. president.



Former California governor Leland Standford founded Stanford University and also changed the standardbred breed for the better.

Stanford himself died in 1893 of heart failure and Palo Alto Stock Farm was closed a decade later.

All that remains of Palo Alto Stock Farm are the "red barn" which is located at 100 Electioneer Road in Stanford. It has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1985. Nearby is a statue of the great stallion Electioneer.

Tattersalls Sale Arena, Lexington, KY

It was a fixture on South Broadway in Lexington, just east of the famous Red Mile racetrack, for countless decades. The proximity of the track and the sales arena worked wonderfully for trainers and owners. They could race horses in the afternoon, then adjourn to Tattersalls.

(To be candid, they would often make a warm-up stop at nearby watering holes such as The Coach House or Rogers Restaurant across Broadway. Buyers somehow seemed to get a lot gamer during the bidding after they'd been lubricated

GIMMICKS MAKING YOU CRAZY?

TARA HILLS 2020 ROSTER

HE'S WATCHING

FIRST CROP SIRE - SPEED & STAKES WINNERS

\$250,000 OSS Super Final winner, TATTOO ARTIST p,2, 1:52s (\$240,405) Ranked 2nd - OSS money winning 2YOPC's FEE \$5,000 CDN

KADABRA

OVER \$9 MILLION EARNED IN 2019

Ranked 2nd in North America (to Muscle Hill (book full) Ranked #1 in Ontario FEE \$10,000 U.S.

MUSCLE MASS

OVER \$7 MILLION EARNED IN 2019

Ranked 2nd in Ontario (1st crop raced in 2019) Ranked #5 in North America FEE \$10,000 U.S.

ROYALTY FOR LIFE

FIRST TWO CROPS - INCREDIBLE

11 - \$100,000+ winners Ranked 2nd in the OSS (2YOTC's), 3rd for 2 & 3YO earnings Ranked 8th in North America (2YOT's) FEE \$6,000 CDN

SPORTSWRITER

OVER \$9 MILLION EARNED IN 2019

Ranked 2nd in Ontario Ranked 7th in North America FEE \$6,500 CDN

ALARM DETECTOR

CANADIAN RECORD HOLDER at 2 - 1:52.4s

Canada's only son of Chapter Seven Standing his first season FEE: \$5,500 CDN

CONTROL THE MOMENT

FIRST CROP WILL RACE THIS YEAR

Winner of: Metro, Meadowlands Pace, Cane Pace 2YOPC of the year

FEE \$5,500 CDN

FLANAGAN MEMORY

BREEDERS CROWN WINNER

OSS Super Final winner Young son of super-sire Kadabra FEE \$2,500 CDN

RESOLVE

FIRST YEARLINGS SELL THIS FALL

World Champion & iron-tough son of Muscle Hill (book full) Winner of: International Trot, Maple Leaf Trot, TVG FFA Final, etc.

FEE \$7,500 CDN

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Harness Racing Update

with Kentucky bourbon).

Tattersalls was the site of many remarkable moments in standardbred sales history.

It was where a young horseman named Delvin Miller bought an unproven stallion named Adios for \$21,000, and the horse's offspring dominated pacing events for the next two decades.

Walnut Hall Farm was the dominant force among Bluegrass breeders in the first half of the 20th century, but for decades it sold yearlings at the "big barn" on the farm property. (The "big barn" is now part of the Kentucky Horse Park).

In the post-war era, Kentucky breeders joined to sell at Tattersalls next to the trotting track.

The Tattersalls Sale was dominated by the major Bluegrass breeders: Castleton Farm, and Walnut Hall Farm, and later augmented by consignments from Almahurst and Stoner Creek Stud.

It's hard to imagine the excitement the preceded Castleton Farm night at Tattersalls in the booming 1960s, 70s, and 80s. The Castleton yearlings were always prepped perfectly and they carried the most distinguished pedigrees in the breed. On Castleton night, a spectator was sure to see fireworks when some prize yearlings entered the ring.

In 1965, Castleton Farm sent a handsome bay yearling named Speedy Streak — a brother to Triple Crown winner Speedy Scot — into the Tattersalls ring and he fetched a price of \$113,000, highest ever for a standardbred.

Many auctioneers rapped and rattled their gavels on the auctioneer's stand at Tattersalls, but surely none was as memorable as George Swinebroad. He had a commanding and even intimidating presence on the auction stand and he'd mastered the wily ways of a country boy determined to pick the pockets of bidders.

He wasn't afraid of confront and cajole a reluctant bidder in search of more money for the sellers.

Swinebroad was on the stand in 1971 when Good Humor Man shattered all records as the highest-priced yearling ever in standardbred history.

When Swinebroad accepted a bid of \$200,000, the crowd roared in disbelief and appreciation. But the master salesman still had his mind set on business.

"Wait a minute! Wait a minute!" he bellowed to the audience. "I haven't sold the damn colt yet!! I've got 200... now do I hear 205?"

He hammered Good Humor Man down for \$210,000.

Swinebroad's longtime sidekick Tom Caldwell was on the stand a dozen years later when Castleton Farms sent the stunning filly Laugh A Day into the sales ring and the bidding on her didn't stop until Lloyd Arnold had the final nod at \$625,000.

The times were a changing' in the late 1970s, however, and some new guard of Bluegrass breeders felt shunned and shut out by the old guard at Tattersalls. They decided to form the Kentucky Standardbred Horse Sale Co. to compete with Tattersalls. Some of the initial consignors were Kentuckiana Farms, and Clermont Farm. Then Armstrong Bros., Yankeeland and other national breeders joined the rebellion.

Tattersalls seemed yesterday's news to many buyers who patronized the new sale. When Castleton dispersed its stock in 2000 and The Red Mile was sold to new owners, the end was near.

Tattersalls was subsequently leveled and now the property is occupied by hotel and other businesses. But the memories linger on.



HARNESS RACING

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Multitude of improvements at Rideau Carleton perfect time to bring back Des Smith Classic

by Dave Briggs

Peter Andrusek said he's excited about the return of the Des Smith Classic open pace to Rideau Carleton Raceway in Ottawa, ON this summer, mostly because the track will have completed a number of important capital projects first.

"I want to kind of create the 'wow' effect," said Rideau Carleton's racing manager. "That's why I was hesitant to adopt marquee events until now, because I kind of knew we were making these investments (in infrastructure)."

Last year, Rideau Carleton installed a new video tote board and high definition broadcast equipment. Over the winter, the old sports bar betting area — which Andrusek referred to as having the aesthetic of "1978 racetrack" — has been refurbished into a modern sports bar.

This year, the track — which opened its live season on Feb. 9 — will spend about \$1.2 million on improvements, including upgrades to the tarmac that will transform the outer ring of the winner's circle into a bar. That means one will be able to belly right up to the winner's circle and have a drink. Rideau Carleton will also start taking patrons for a ride in its new limousine starting gate, which will debut when the weather improves in the spring.

"We retrofitted an actual limousine," Andrusek said. "We intend to take people for rides in the car. It has leather upholstery, there's a TV in there. What we're trying to do is not just create a horse racing experience, but more like a Disney experience. The TV (in the limo) will come on, it'll play the history of harness racing with a touch of Rideau Carleton and in there we're going wire up the car so that you get all the sounds occurring outside the car... If the horsemen are yelling at each other, the mic is going to pick that up and put it right into the cabin. The limo will really get you close to the action, but this makes it even better because you can hear all the hoof prints and the action.

"We are really focusing our investments to create an experience that is similar, if not superior to, your other sports entertainment options."

In Ottawa, that includes competing with the National



Hockey League's Ottawa Senators, the Canadian Football League's Ottawa Redblacks and the Ontario Hockey League's Ottawa 67s.

"Compared to other professional sports, nobody's walking out (of Rideau Carleton) with their two empty pockets out. You don't need \$150 to get in and out," Andrusek said. "If you go to a Senators game, it can cost you \$400. If little Johnny wants a popcorn, it's \$4 here, but it's \$14.50 (at the Senators' game). Here, a beer is \$5, not \$9, \$10... You could come to Rideau Carlton on a Sunday afternoon with your family and it's free admission, free parking and you get the full experience of horse racing. That's how you get interested in the sport.

"Ottawa is a major metropolitan market, we're not a rural community... and in order to attract a new (horse racing) customer you have to provide a modern sports experience, you have to provide amenities that are comparable to other professional organizations."

The Des Smith Classic for open pacers was last contested at Rideau Carleton in 2012.

"When the Slots at Racetracks Program was discontinued (in 2013), our purses literally went from \$17 million to less than \$4.5 million. This is a dramatic drop. Obviously, we could not support our premium events we used to host, the Frank Ryan Trot and the Des Smith Classic."

The Des Smith will return on Sunday, Aug. 16 with an estimated purse of \$75,000 thanks to funding support from Ontario Racing.

"I had some wonderful support from (Ontario Racing)," Andrusek said. "I started making the plea about six months ago that in order to... get us back into the main stream of sports entertainment I wanted to make it a step by step process. I wanted to get the amenities in place first... because, at the end of the day, I'm bringing in a new crowd and I can't show them 1978."

Andrusek said he's also hoping the media will return to the track and be impressed with the improvements. There really

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hasn't been a reason for the media to come to Rideau Carleton Raceway since its signature events were halted. That loss of coverage has had a negative impact on horse racing in the nation's capital.

The further hope is the Des Smith can be contested on the same day as Georgian Downs' signature event, the Earl Rowe Memorial trot and be "marketed together for simulcasting purposes," Andrusek said. "That's the reason why we went with the Des Smith because the Earl Rowe is a trot and we're going with a pace."

Des Smith and his family also hold a treasured place in Ottawa and at Rideau Carleton.

"Des Smith was our track announcer for 22 years and he has a special appeal to Ottawa in that regard," Andrusek said. "He is in the Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame and so on, but there's also a bigger story and it revolves around one of his children, Brian Smith... He played in the NHL for the Los Angeles Kings. After his career was done he was the sports commentator for CTV. One night (in 1995), he was gunned down by some lunatic and at a young age lost his life... We have a solid connection with the family and Brian was very well respected.

"The reason (the Des Smith) is important for me - as somebody that's been at the track for 27 years - is because the Smith family is so prominent."

The Des Smith has a rich history of attracting some of the continent's very best open pacers, including: Apaches Fame, Artsplace, Staying Together, Riyadh, Ball And Chain, Boulder Creek, Our Lucky Killean and the most recent winner, Betterthancheddar.

Track broadcaster and handicapper Graeme Mitchell said the Rideau Carleton all-age track record of 1:49.2 was set in the 2006 Des Smith Classic by Lis Mara and equalled in 2011 in the Des Smith by Lisagain.

"We had a couple of horses and drivers that have won back-to-back," Mitchell said. "Red Bow Tie did that in 1998 and '99 with Luc Ouellette. Also, we had Silent Swing back in 2008, 2009 that won in back-to-back years.

"I think will break the track record this year. Our track is super in the summer right now so I think we have a good chance of breaking that mark... With the current purse structure, we don't have the classes to bring horses in regularly to break that record, but now (with the return of the Des Smith we) can and it can be a good story."

Rideau Carleton currently races Sundays only through June 7, but will add Thursday night live cards beginning June 11 - 100 and those will carry a special 4 p.m. first race post time.

"Thursdays were becoming very challenging because it was becoming very crowded on the simulcast schedule," Andrusek said. "The more tracks going for the dollar means you can only spread so far... Basically, we're betting one third on Thursdays of what we were betting on Sunday and we felt that there was a real opportunity by going at 4 p.m. instead."

Mitchell said the 4 p.m. Thursday posts will likely entice more patrons to jump on the regularly-scheduled bus from Montreal because they will be returning home earlier.

Through the first two live cards of 2020, Andrusek is already pleased with the betting numbers for the track's 59th season of live racing.

"We opened up to a pretty good crowd and we bet \$171,000, which was significantly higher than the previous two years when we opened up," he said. "Last Sunday (Feb. 16), we did \$252,000."

Solid numbers for winter racing, but Andrusek said he can't wait to see the handle figures once the weather improves and fans can check out all the new amenities and improvements.



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