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PENSACOLA HORSEMAN

CAPT. T. E. WELLES, OWNER OF A STRING OF THOROUGHBREDS, INCLUDINC JOHN A., WHO HOLDS AMERICAN TURF RECORD OF '07

THE STRING.

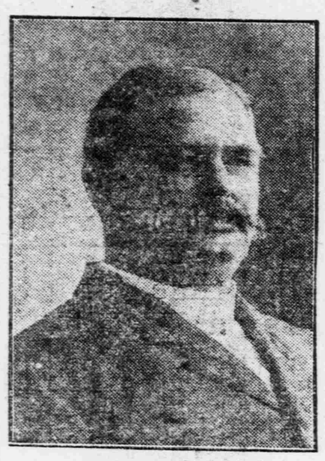
Name	Time
John A., pacer	2.03¾
Jim Crow, pacer	2.13¼
Billie A., pacer	2.13½
Geraldine, pacer	2.15¼
Doctor Collins, trotter	2.19¼
Red Apple, trotter	2.19¼
Travalesso, trotter	No mark
Frank Directly, trotter	No mark

What is conceded to be one of the most promising strings of harness horses on the circuits today is that owned by Capt. T. E. Welles of this city. Although only about three years have elapsed since Captain Welles made his second debut on the grand and southern circuits as an owner of thoroughbreds, his animals have captured many fine purses, and in two instances have been the sensations of the season, notably that of 1907, when John A., conceded to be the finest of the 1907 entries in the grand circuit, made a world's record, and Jim Crow finished in the southern circuit with a mark which will send him into the grand circuit the coming season.

Few persons in Pensacola, even among those intimately acquainted with the jovial ex-mayor, are aware of the fact that he is giving to Pensacola a name of which many cities are jealous—that of the home of some of the finest pacers and trotters owned in any city of the south. While for the past two years it has been known that Captain Welles was the owner of John A., a fine pacer, and of Jim Crow, Billie A., and a few others, which have been seen on the tracks in Pensacola, the extent of his ownership of thoroughbreds can only be realized by scanning the list above, and noting the time made during the past season on the various circuits.

Capt. Welles Not a Novice.

Captain Welles is not a novice, however, in the selection of horses. He has had experience before, and knows and loves a fine animal. Eighteen years ago he made his debut along the circuits as an owner, and at that time, together with other prominent citizens, had a fine string, but he retired after a few years, and although continuing to keep a fine stable did not again venture on the circuits until three years ago, when he purchased Jim Crow, a pacer of more than ordinary ability. The success of the



CAPT. T. E. WELLES.
The Owner of a String of Promising Thoroughbreds.

animal and an opportunity to purchase others which he considered to be of good stock, induced him to add to his string.

Then came his master stroke as a judge of thoroughbreds. John A., the sensation on the grand circuit, was secured. The owners of the animal little realized his worth, but Captain Welles did. His conformation and style attracted the attention of the Pensacolian while he was in Tennessee, although John A. was then only a colt, and had received but little attention and no training. The animal was purchased, however, and the season of 1906 saw him in the southern circuit. There he was looked upon as a future star in the big circuit, and he attracted the attention of Ed. Geers, known to be the fines trainer and reinsman in the country today.

John A had a low mark in the southern circuit and Geers realized that to place him in the grand circuit with his stable would mean to carry off many purses. A consultation between the owner and trainer followed, with the result that John A. went to the Geers stable in Memphis early in the year 1907, and what followed is history among the followers of the race track.

Two Others in Grand Circuit.

While John A was creating a sensatoin, two other animals, both of which have pedigrees to warrant their being looked upon as winners, were going down the grand circuit, and winning first and second money without obtaining a high mark. They were Doctor Collins, a promising trotter, which after winning second money in many events, finally got a mark of 2.19 1-4, and Travalesso who went the entire season on the grand circuit without getting a scratch although he was second in many of the big races of the season.

Frank Directly is another trotter of which his owner is proud. He was on the southern circuit the past year, but came out without a mark, and is a promising candidate for the big circuit this season. Red Apple went down the circuit in the south with Frank Directly, and although a winner got a low mark, having 2:15 1-4 chalked against him, when he can go the distance at a much faster clip. He is a pacer, and is only equaled by Billie A., Jim Crow and John A. among the string.

Jim Crow and Billie A.

Of Jim Crow and Billie A., who have records of 2.14 1-4 and 2.13 1-2, on the southern circuits, judges of fast animals believe that this season will see them making a record on the grand circuit equal to that of John A. during the past year. They were clearly out of their class the past year on the southern circuit, as there were no animals on the tracks that could even make a race interesting. On numerous occasions entries were pulled off by owners when they learned that Jim Crow or Billie A had been entered, for they knew that to enter their animals against these two fast pacers would be only to see them finish behind. As a consequence Jim Crow and Billie A never had an opportunity of showing their real worth the past season. Jim Crow is considered the better of the two animals; although there is little to pick between them. He has the spirit, however, that endears him to the lover of the thoroughbred, and in this respect resembles the famous John A.

That the string of Captain Welles will cause more than ordinary comment and interest on the grand circuit goes without saying, and it is expected that the Pensacolian will share many of the big purses on the circuit this season.

History of John A.

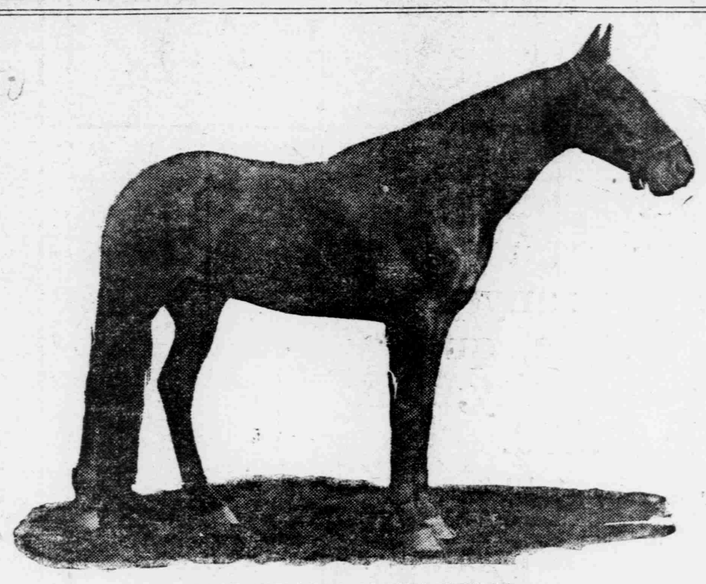
The history of the debut of John A. on the grand circuit is interesting, and is told by the Chicago Horse Review, an authority on thoroughbreds, in a recent issue as follows:

If competent judges had been selected to pass upon the pacing stallions that raced on the Grand Circuit in 1907, judging them on points of beauty, conformation and race-horse qualifications, John A. 2:03 3-4, holder of the year's race record for pacing stallions, would have been a strong candidate for the blue ribbon. John A. is a rarely beautiful horse, a burnt chestnut in color, his coat being full of lustre and his mane and tail shading off to auburn tints. In conformation, too, he is in every way attractive, having all requisites of substance and with it finish of the highest degree. Because of these things, together with his speed and gameness, John A. was one of the feature horses of the Grand Circuit campaign.

John A. first appeared upon the turf in his three-year-old form, in 1905, taking a record that year of 2:24 1-4 over a half-mile track. In 1906 he was raced by Clifford Thomas, of Pulaski, Tenn., who started him ten times, he winning eight races and taking a record of 2:08 3-4. This campaign, as a four-year-old, presaged John A.'s possession of sufficient class to race successfully on the Grand Circuit, and with this in view his owner, Mr. T. E. Welles, of Pensacola, Fla., sent him to Mr. Geers at Memphis in November, a year ago. His appearnce at the noted winter training ground elicited many favorable criticisms and Mr. Welles was repeatedly asked to put a price on the stallion, but consistently refused to do so.

His 1907 Campaign.

His 1907 campaign opened at the Libertyville, Ill., Great Western Circuit meeting, July 17th. Here he met a field of four, including Kruger 2:04, a gelding with whom he was destined to contest a series of stirring races. John A. proved the victor in straight heats, after a brilliant contest: time 2:06 1-4, 2:06 1-4, 2:09 1-4, third quarter of the second heat being paced by him in 29 3-4 seconds. The following week at Detroit, Kruger managed to reverse the decision, John A. being second in each heat, never beaten more than a short head, and a field of four behind him: time 2:05 3-4, 2:06 1-4, 2:06 3-4. Thence going to Cleveland John A. easily took the 2:09 pace from a field of five, his rival being absent; time 2:06 1-4, 2:06 1-4, finishing the last quarter of the heat in 30 1-4 seconds.



CAPT. WELLES'S JOHN A., 2:03 3-4.
The Pride of His Owner, the Sensation of the Season in the Grand Circuit, and Holder of 1907 Turf Record.

Won Big Stakes.

In the Boezel Hotel $2,000 2:08 pace, at Buffalo, John A. got revenge for his Detroit defeat by beating Kruger, Allanwood 2:04 1-4 and seven others in the four-heat race, although in the betting he brought but $15 in $115. He won the first heat in 2:05 3-4, lost the second to Allanwood in 2:07, and won the next two heats in 2:06 1-2, 207 1-4, in commanding style. The first half of the first heat he paced in 1:01, and the second quarter in 29 1-2 seconds.

At Poughkeepsie he was not himself and was unplaced in the Hotel Nelson stake for 2:08 pacers, the $17,500 Blacklock 2:04 1-2 being the winner. The Norfolk 2:08 stake, value $6,000, at Reedville, Kruger proved the winner of the first heat in 2:04, John A. being third. The second was won by John A. in 2:03 3-4, which is not only the season's record for a stallion in a race, but by five-year-old of any sex, as well. Kruger took the third and final heat in 2:06, John A. winning second money. The field contained thirteen horses, representing the best stake pacers of the year.

At Providence, in the 2:06 pace, John A. won in two straight heats from a field of five horses; time 2:05 1-2, 2:06 1-4, pacing the opening quarter of each in 30 1-2 and 30 seconds respectively. Rain interfered with the Hartford meeting, requiring postponement till Saturday before the races could be called. The track on that day was soft and heavy, and entirely unsuited to John A., which fact accounts for his showing in the Nutmeg stake for 2:07 pacers.

Another Big Purse.

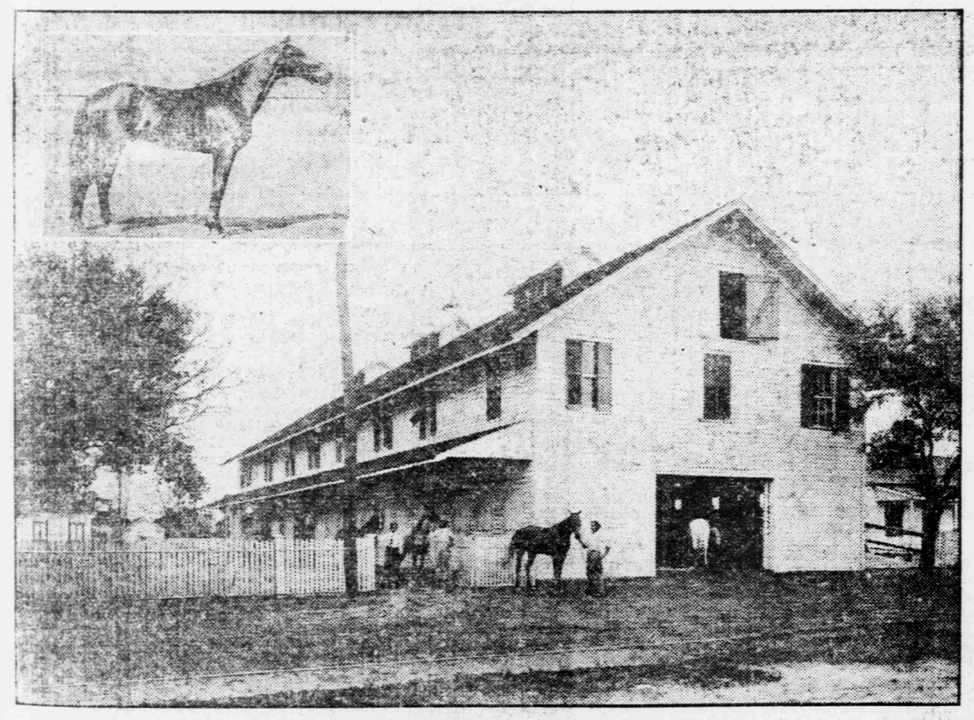
One of the hottest races contested by John A. was in the $2,000 Onondaga stake at Syracuse. Doris B. took the first heat in 2:05 3-4, John A. finishing third. He won the second heat in 2:04 3-4, then lost the third, which went to Wilson Addington in 2:07 1-4 Then came the decisive fourth heat. Although apparently a beaten horse in the previous heat, John A. came back like a lion and, pacing his field into submission, won off by himself in 2:06 1-4.

In shipping from Syracuse John A. caught cold, resulting in a fever which incapacitated him to such an extent that he was unable to start in the 2:09 stake during the first week's races at Columbus.

Seventh as Money-Winner.

John A. stood seventh among the money-winning pacers on the Grand Circuit, having put $6,450 to his credit. Adding his Libertyvill race to this makes his total for the season $7,950.

John A. is one of the most intensely pacing-bred pacers alive. He was bred by W. B. Long, Pulaski, Tenn., and is sired by Eddie Hal 2:15, son of Fry's Hal, by Byron Hal, 2:12 1-2, the monarch of all pacing progenitors. Fry's Hal is out of pick (dam of Hal Stockings 2:15 1-4, Lena H. 2:22, and Markland 2:22), by Ernhart's Brooks, while Eddie Hal is out of Dollie, by George Liggett, son of Kremer, by Traveler; grandam by Prince Pulaski. The dam of John A. is Mattie, by Newsboy, he by Mountain Slasher, out of the mare by Prince Pulaski. Mattie's dam was the daughter of Watson's Hardee, by General Hardee; next dam by Rosseau, thoroughbred. These names will be recognized as those of the horses which have been progenitors of practically all the famous Tennessee pacers. Is it any wonder that John A. is one of the best that has ever come out of the "middle basin"?



THE FINE PENSACOLA STABLES OF CAPT. WELLES.
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DECLINE OF RELIGION IN NATION'S LIFE

Cardinal Gibbons Attributes It to Lack of Religious Training in Youth.

Boston, Feb. 1.—Cardinal Gibbons, who is in Boston to officiate Friday in the ceremony of conferring the palium on Archbishop O'Connell, accorded a short interview today to newspaper men.

When asked whether he believed the people of the United States were growing better, from a religious point of view, he replied:

"It is hard to answer that question on any definite lines. In respect for religion I am afraid that the people of America are not what they were fifty or sixty years ago. For instance, our statesmen show this in their public addresses and debates. The statesmen of America fifty or sixty years ago showed a familiarity with and regard for the holy scriptures and the word of God, which, I am sorry to say, does not present itself today."

Asked as to what he attributed this decline of interest in religious matters, the cardinal said:

"That also is a hard question to answer. I attribute it, first of all however, to their early training, which is devoid of religious education."

"Do you suggest any remedy for the arrest of this decline of interest?"

"As far as the Catholic church can, it is doing all in its power to indoctrinate respect for religion and its sacred truths into the minds of the people."

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