

Don Millar and John Thro's Cora T. turns back Rosemary (1-W. Haughton) in the race-off of the filly division of the Hambletonian. Bill Herman guided the Star's Pride-Flicka Frost miss through her two miles in 1:58 and 2:02<sup>4</sup>/<sub>5</sub>.

The filly division of the Hambletonian valued at \$70,000, featured an all-star cast also, headed by Kentuckiana Farm's World Champion Rosemary and the brilliant bay miss, Cora T., owned by Don Millar and John Thro, not to mention the presence of Descent Starita Lobell, and Imagery.

Cora T., the Star's Pride-Flicka Frost three-quarter sister to the 1970 Hambletonian victor Timothy T., set the pace in the opening mile and took a new career docking of 1:58 when she sped home a couple lengths in advance of Rosemary with A.M. Cuddy Stable's Imagery third for Stanley Dancer.

When they returned Mrs. Gene Riegle and R. Black's Cami Almahurst, with young Bruce Riegle in the sulky, cut out the mile, but at the finish it was the Nevele Pride-Lovester brown miss Rosemary under the wire first in a new season's record 1:57<sup>3</sup>/<sub>5</sub>. Descent, Jimmy Arthur and Starita Lobell, handled by Joe O'Brien, and Cora T., Bill Herman driving, swept across the finish noses apart in second, third and fourth respectively.

Rosemary went to the front at the start of the race-off. Cora T. trailed her by a length to the final bend where she moved alongside her rival. Cora T. edged into the lead turning for home. Rosemary strived to regain the lead throughout the stretch, but could get no closer than a half-length at the end of the mile. With that trip in 2:02<sup>4</sup>/<sub>5</sub>, the sophomore filly world standard for three heats divided of 5:58<sup>2</sup>/<sub>5</sub> was equalled.

Thursday's Grand Circuit card proved to be a showcase for two of this season's most precocious two-year-olds, the filly pacer Hazel Hanover, and the colt pacer, Sonsam.

Hazel Hanover, a Tar Heel-Hope Diamond bay raced by William Herman for John Simpson, Sr., lessee, swept the \$28,128 Almahurst Farm Stake in straight heats of 1:58 and 1:58<sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub>. Almahurst Stud's Bright Almahurst, piloted by Glen Garnsey, set the pace in the first mile, fading to fifth at the finish after Hazel Hanover moved authoritatively to the front. Trailing her home by 2 to 3 lengths in the opener was Kentuckiana Farm's Turnpiker, handled by George Sholty, with Charlotte N. Sheppard's Belle Alba, Johnny Simpson, Jr. up, third.

Turnpiker was first away in the second mile, but Hazel Hanover didn't wait as long this time to take command. Once straightened out on the backstretch she moved to the front and carried the field home by open lengths again. Turnpiker and Belle Alba were second and third.

Sonsam, a brown son of Albatross owned by J. and J. Epstein and C. and B. Epstein, had an easy pair of miles in 1:59<sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub> and back in 1:57<sup>3</sup>/<sub>5</sub>. G. Duane Vieth's Sky Writer, handled by Warren Cameron, attempted to steal the second heat from Sonsam, but after setting most of the pace proved unable to match strides with the champion through the lane. Second the first time he finished third in the concluding mile.

Thursday's remaining Grand Circuit affairs were for 2-year-old trotters. The colts, racing in the Castleton Farm for \$30,204 were again dominated by the improving Speedster youngster, Courtly, who races for the Swedish twosome of driver Hakan Wallner, and owner Ulf Mobert.

Courtly took command of the first mile at the half-mile post, and finished out the trip in 2:01<sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub>. Legend Hanover came from far back for Joe O'Brien to finish second with Saint Francis third.

In the second mile Flight Stable's Saint Francis, driven by Howard Beissinger, set the pace to the half where Courtly once again took over and carried the field to the wire, reached in 2:01<sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub> with Thaddeus Hanover second and Unexpected Guest third. Legend Hanover broke stride making a move for the lead around the half, and wound up eighth in the 10-trotter field.

In the Castleton Farm filly trot, for \$26,154, Barbara Mck Mumma and Ann Beissinger's Ahhh and Clarence F. Gaines's Classical Way dueled through the first mile to the stretch where Classical Way edged in front for a neck decision in 2:02<sup>4</sup>/<sub>5</sub> for Johnny Simpson, Jr. Ahhhh was second with Precious Memories third.

These three provided all the action in the repeat mile, but this time it was Ahhhh that took charge late in the stretch for a 2:03<sup>3</sup>/<sub>5</sub> victory.

## DRIVER QUOTES

### First Heat

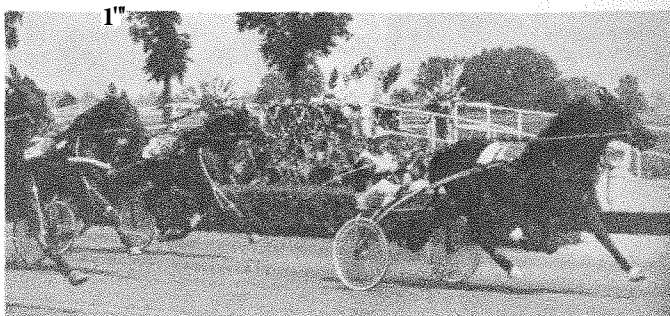
**Howard Beissinger** (Speedy Somolli). This was the best I could hope for. We didn't do much until we got to the first quarter, and he heard those other colts coming up behind him. He got busy then and started to dig in. The only rest he got was in that first quarter mile because somebody was always coming after us. He raced perfectly; we were right on the gate at the start. I heard Brisco fill in the hole behind me, and then Sholty came on with Florida Pro. This was a tough trip. They didn't leave us alone. We had to battle them eye to eye the whole mile. It surprised me that Brisco Hanover got away so good. It appears he likes daylight racing better than nighttime. It surprised me that nobody came out and challenged us.

**George Sholty** (Florida Pro). Speedy Somolli deserved the win. He trotted on the front end in world record time. My horse trotted a good race.

**Jim Miller** (Brisco Hanover). He had a ton of trot. I took my chances on leaving with him, and he did perfect. I thought in the stretch we would trot past Speedy Somolli but he brushed George's sulky and the judges set me back to third as they should have. Miller explained that as I was going past Speedy Somolli, Speedy Somolli moved out causing Brisco to brush Florida Pro.

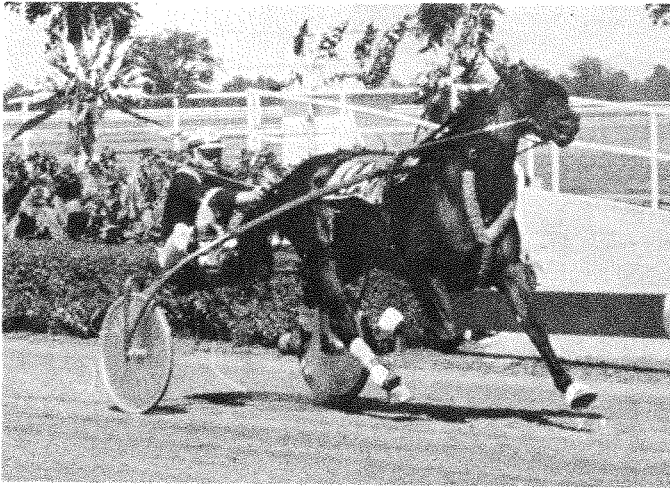
### Second Heat

**George Sholty** (Florida Pro). It has been two great heats. When Howard went out just before the half, I followed him; and Brisco followed me. I knew that if he would continue to trot, we had a good chance. But you never know when you hit them that they might jump. As for the third heat driving strategy, we will just have to see how he blows out, and take it from there. If Florida Pro stays sharp, we will try to beat Nevele Pride's world trotting record of 1:54 4-5 at Lexington, Kentucky later this fall.



Kentuckians Farm's World Champion Rosemary uncorks a mile in 1:57<sup>3</sup>/<sub>5</sub> for Billy Haughton in the second heat of the \$70,000 Hambletonian Filly Trot. Descent (3-J. Arthur) was second to the brown daughter of Nevele Pride-Lovester followed by Starita Lobell (6-J. O'Brien) and the first heat winner and eventual victor in the race-off, Cora T. (2-W. Herman).





Courtly, the straight-heat winner of the \$30,204 Castleton Farm Stake. The freshman bay son of Speedster-Kimberly Dutchess trotted in 2:01 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>s</sub> and back in 2:01 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>s</sub> for the Swedish team of driver Hakan Wallner and owner Ulf Moberg.

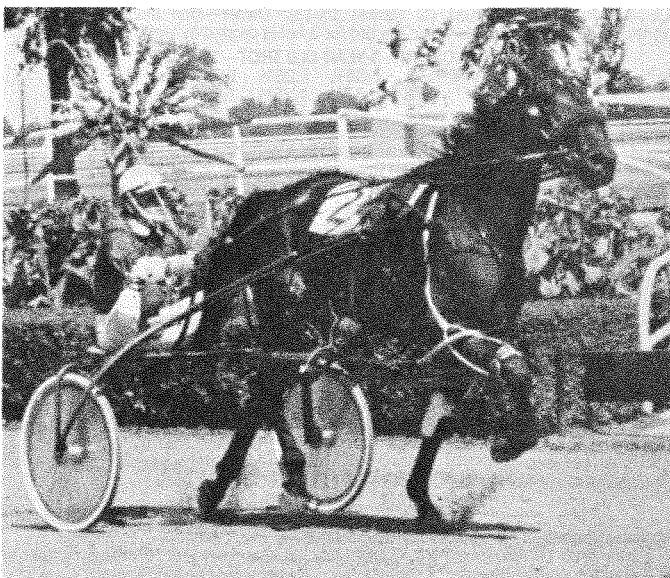
**Howard Beissinger** (Speedy Somolli). I have no regrets. This is what the people pay to see. I knew when Billy Haughton went to the top with Count's Pride that he would run out of gas, so I pulled out and made my charge. I think Brisco Hanover hurt his chances for second when he went too wide in the backstretch.

**Del Miller** (Noble Art). The track is a good trotting track today; Brilliant Yankee messed up everyone's strategy by going for the lead early in the race. I was 20 lengths back at the half.

**Jim Miller** (Brisco Hanover). It's a tough race. He went a pretty good trip and was real game the last end of it. It was a hell of a horse race with both heats in 1:55. I hate to come back the fourth heat, but if I win, we will go four. This race is survival of the toughest.

### THIRD HEAT

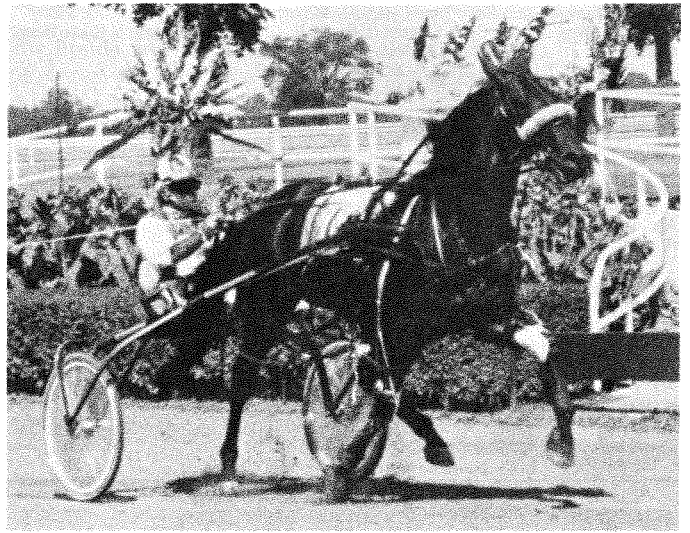
**Howard Beissinger**-I'm the luckiest guy in harness racing. I kind of expected to win the second heat after winning the first. I wanted to change driving tactics in the third heat if situation presented itself, but it didn't. I would have liked to have come from behind. I switched to a blind bridle for the third heat . . . used open bridle first two. I just got outtrotted



The widely acclaimed Hazel Hanover steps home in firm control of the \$28,128 Almahurst Farm 2-year-old filly pace which the daughter of Tar Heel-Hope Diamond took in straight heats of 1:58 and 1:58 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>s</sub>. Bill Herman steers the bay miss for John F. Simpson, Lessee.

that second heat. Speedy Somolli is better than my first two Hambletonian winners (Lindy's Pride and Speedy Crown) but he is harder to manage and to drive, but he's faster. Brisco was getting to me that last heat, but only to my wheel. He did not pass. Track here today is about one second off last year. Speedy Somolli is the only colt with a chance to win the Triple Crown. The final leg is \$100,000 Kentucky Futurity at Lexington's Red Mile on Friday afternoon, October 6. I plan to give him next week off, then race in the Colonial at Liberty Bell and Old Oaken Bucket at Delaware, Ohio before the Futurity. We aren't planning to time trial him . . . we're satisfied with his 1:55 record.

**Jim Miller** (Brisco Hanover). He went three really terrific miles. We have nothing to be ashamed of. In the last trip, we had a good mile, moved out to chase Howard around the last turn and then got right at him coming for home. But down the lane, he really began to get tired on me and then at Victory Lane he just wore down and made a tired break. Mr. Barr and I are both delighted with his performance. He went three really tough heats and showed his class.



World Champion Sonsam disposes of 5 foes easily in both heats of the \$30,653 Almahurst Farm Stake, winning by open lengths both times in 1:59 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>s</sub> and back in 1:57 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>s</sub>. George Sholty campaigns the brown son of Albatross-Princess Sam for owners J. and J. Epstein and C. and B. Epstein.

**George Sholty** (Florida Pro). I really just got outshuffled the last trip. There was a lot of traffic from the time we entered the backstretch and I just couldn't tip him out. Then when we finally did get loose, we had too much ground to make up. The second heat was one of the happiest things that has ever happened to me in this game. I was delighted and I guess it just wasn't in the cards for us.

### AUGUST 31

ILL. 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT-\$9,050.  
 Time:-:301/s 1:02/s 1:33/s 2:04/s  
 :301/s 1:01 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>s</sub> 1:34 2:053/s

Crafty Go in, b m, 5 Crafty Filter-Miss Duchess Speed (1) . . . . . J. O'Brien 1 1  
 Marilyn Magoo 3-2, Game Gal 2-4, Emy B. Happy 4-3, Rita Magoo 6-5, Donzerly light  
 5-6, Sahara Empire 7-dr. Owner-Go in Places Stock Farm.

ILL. 2-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE-\$10,900.  
 Time:-:321/s 1:043/s 1:371/s 2:063/s  
 :30 1:01 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>s</sub> 1:341/s 2:05

Poetess, bf, Silent Byrd-Misty Verse (3) . . . . . Je. Graham 1 1  
 Ozanna 4-2, Hawthorne Star 2-5, Something Going 5-3, Sweet Sensation 6-4, Betsy's  
 Baby 3-dr. Owner-Misty Farm & Son Gra Stable.

ILL. 2-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT-\$10,500.  
 Time:-:311/s 1:043/s 1:381/s 2:081/s  
 :313/s 1:05 1:371/s 2:081/s

All Aflame Again, bf, Flaming Byro-Masquerader Lady 11) . . . . . J. O'Brien 1 1  
 Ange Flight 2-2, Ima Magoo 3-6, Cardinal Blaze 11-3, Hawthorne Imp 4-4, Heather  
 Jeanne 8-5, Bionic Princess 5-8, Jane's New Star 6-9, Hallie S. 10-7, Neda Girl 7-10,  
 Susie Sutton 9-11. Owner-Donald C. Place.

ILL. BREEDERS 3-YEAR-OLD TROT-\$4,643.76. Time-2:10 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>s</sub> 2:07  
 FastTrotter, b c, Floris-Gossip (3) . . . . . F. Gunderson 1 3  
 Campsite Empire, bf, Empire Hanover-Campsite 14) . . . . . D. Shetler 4 1  
 Raders Brat 2-4, Chance Ranger 5-2, Power Sled 3-5. . . . . Owner-C. Runge, Jr., F. Gun-  
 derson & F. Speers; FrederkIng Developing Co.

In Illinois

# Du Quoin Grand Circuit

*Cora T. Wins Hambletonian Filly Trot In World Record Time/ Danong Bee Captures \$60,000 Governor's Cup*

By Rusty Rice

**D**U QUOIN, Ill.—One glance at the field for the 1978 edition of the Hambletonian Filly Stakes gave the indication it would be a great one. The \$70,000 purse attracted a lineup of 14 of the year's best 3-year-olds with absolutely no big ones missing.

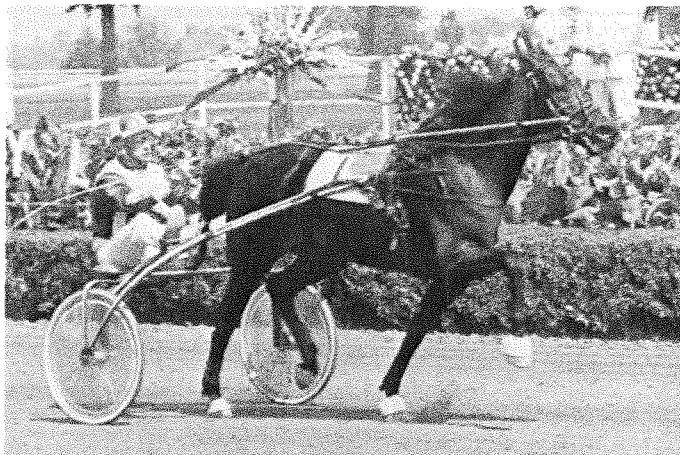
All three season's leaders—Cora T. from the mile tracks at 1:58.1, Rosemary with the 1:59.3f world record, and Christmas Eve, best on half-milers at 2:00.3—were on hand along with the more than noticeable Imagery, leading money winner in the field and Starita Lobell, last year's freshman queen. Add the Pennsylvania champion Descent and Ohio's Cami Almahurst (22 wins in 31 life starts) and you had enough favorites for many races, let alone just one.

But the confrontation turned out just as the Grand Circuit warmups to the big one had predicted, the two battling it out last week for the Hoosier Futurity on the second stop of the hat-trick circuit waging war again, only today faster and more competitive than they had ever raced before.

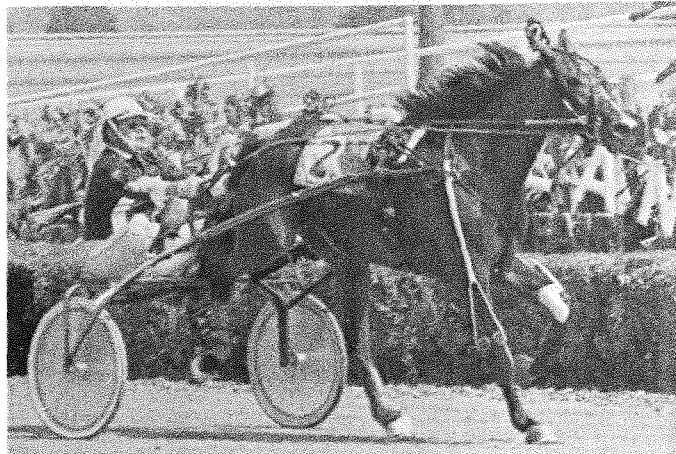
When you have 14 fillies like these in one field, post position and placing right off the gate means almost everything, and Cora T. and her new trainer-driver Billy Herman made the most of their rail draw. Almost everyone left, and it was quite a sight as they headed into the first turn, with at least two tiers of five-wide distaffers rushing for a place in this first dash for the prize of their young lives.

This battle for the top was won from the rail by Cora T. but the :27.2 pounding she received took less ground than the route thrust upon her competitors, and that was probably the difference in the heat, along with one other factor which we will pick up later.

Two fillies from the second tier wrestled good position to



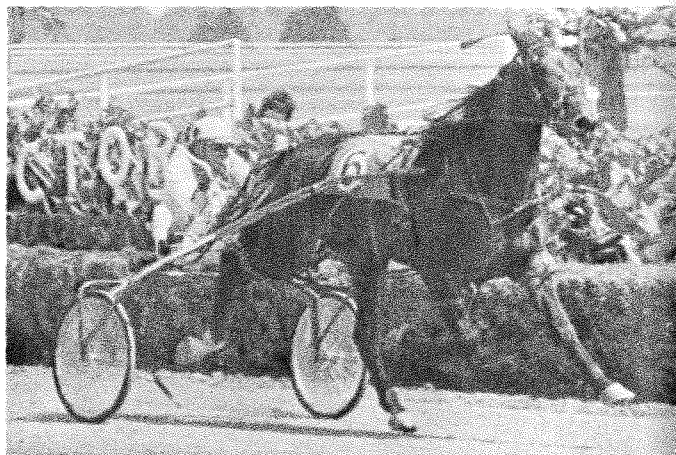
Rosemary sets a 1:57.3 season's mark in the second heat of the Hambletonian Filly Stakes. Second in the first heat and race-off, Kentuckiana Farms' Nevele Pride filly has lifetime earnings of \$132,330. Bill Haughton drove Rosemary.



Cora T., driven by Bill Herman, takes a 1:58 mark in the first Hambletonian Filly heat. The Star's Pride lass won the race-off in 2:02.4, tying the 3-heats-divided mark set 20 years ago by Emily's Pride, from Star's Pride's 2nd crop.

the quarter, Christmas Eve fighting for the garden spot from post eleven for Carl Allen and Imagery getting great placement in fourth for Stanley Dancer behind Sealed With A Kiss, which had immediately dropped from her second post to the rail with the early brush by Cora T. and Billy Herman. By this point Bill Haughton had Rosemary in fifth sitting well after leaving from her fourth post.

By the half, in which Herman had given Cora T. a 31 second breather, the contending fillies trailing moved up a



*Horseman's Pick*  
Dancing Bee scores a 2:01.3 heat victory to clinch the \$60,000 Governor's Cup for Illinois 2-year-olds. The Egyptian Dancer colt, owned by Geraldine and David Williams with driver Harry Poort, Jr., was also bred by the Williams'.



notch with the fading of Sealed With A Kiss and began to make their contending moves as the trot picked up a bit to the 1:28.2 third station. Imagery came out before that point, followed by Rosemary as Cami Almahurst and Bruce Riegle began to pick up their trot from back in the field and the chase was on.

But Cora T. put them all away with a :29.3 brush home, extending her lead from two in the stretch to two and a half lengths at the wire over Rosemary, which had passed Imagery late in the drive for second, Dancer's charge beaten for that spot by three parts of a length. Cami Almahurst got up for fourth, with Descent and Jimmy Arthur settling in fifth and Starita Lobell, racing well despite her ninth post position, rounding out the top six.

The time for that heat was 1:58 flat, with Cora T. lowering her own season's record, set in the first heat last week at Indianapolis, by one tick. It also gave her the rail again for the next dash but not the favorite's role, as the crowd once again came back with strong support for Rosemary.

The entire field returned for the second heat and they left the gate with the same enthusiasm as before, Cora T. fighting and parking Imagery to a swift :27.4 opener as Dancer put Mac Cuddy's Nevele Pride lass on the top past that point but she was a tired filly after reaching the :57.2 half. Haughton pulled Rosemary from fifth before tucking back and settling with third position in the field by the third quarter when Cora T. went to the outside in fourth, coming wide around the turn in the battle for home.

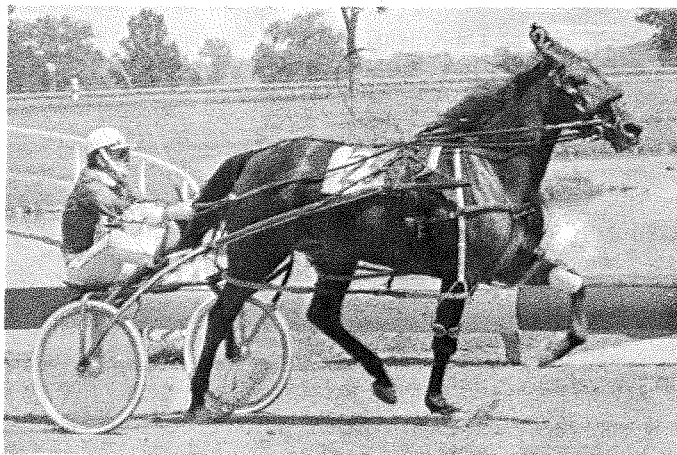
Haughton seemed to be in a bind by now, but as Prioress, which had taken the lead earlier from the fading Imagery, drifted a little, Rosemary stormed through the middle of the track to be a half-length off the leader with an eighth left and in a matter of seconds had opened up a two length lead. Two fillies from the rear, Descent and Starita Lobell, had saved enough from their eighth and tenth positions at the 1:27.2 third quarter to make a serious assault on the leader, but Descent came up a length and a quarter short of the winning Rosemary, while Starita Lobell and Joe O'Brien lapped her hind quarters for third, edging Corn T. by a half-length.

The game Rosemary had trotted her winning mile in 1:57.3, erasing Cora T.'s season's record from the previous heat, this turn of events depicting the see-saw battle these two great fillies have waged during the summer season. Cora T. came to national attention in July at Scioto with a 1:59.4 world record performance, which Rosemary lowered by one tick at The Meadows Grand Circuit. Then last week Cora T. took the first heat at Indy in 1:58.1, Rosemary bouncing back three ticks slower, but capturing the Hoosier Futurity by being best in summary.

Rosemary is owned by Tom Crouch's Kentuckiana Farms, the newest major breeding establishment in the Bluegrass area. Her sire is world champion and Hambletonian winner Nevele Pride and her dam is former world champion Lovester 3, 2:01.1 by Speedster, bred by Bill Shehan and a full sister to Lansdowne 3, 1:59.4 and a half-sister to Tamerlane 3, 2:00.1. She is now season's champion on both five-eighths and mile tracks for her gait, sex and gait.

According to the stabs conditions, the two heat winners met for a third and decisive mile, a two-filly race where strategy and the luck of the draw prove to be very decisive factors. Faced with the most crucial test of their lives, the ladies proudly pranced postward, Rosemary parading first from the decisive coin toss, Cora T.'s score marked with her distinctive straight gait.

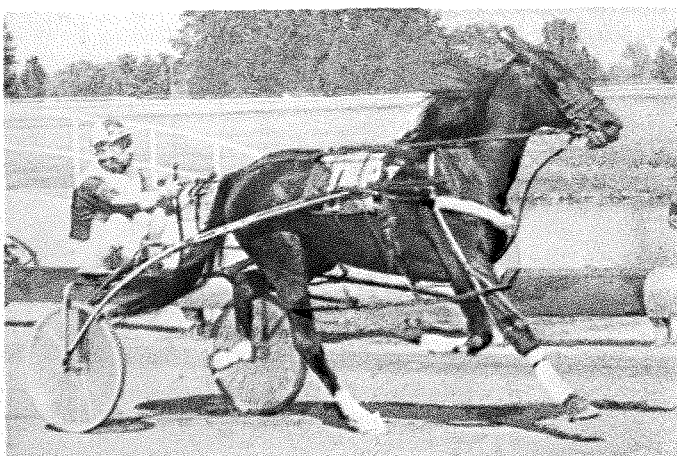
Haughton left as expected, going fast enough to keep Cora parked until Herman tucked wisely as they began the



**Hazel Hanover begins her Almahurst-Hayes win with a 1:58 heat, followed by another in 1:58.1. Bill Herman trains the Tar Heel 2-year-old, a winner of five straight and eight of 11 starts. She holds the world mark at 1:56.2.**



**Owner Barry Epstein receives Sonsam's trophy from Tricia and Kim Baugh, surrounded by the Sholty family-George, Buzzy, Myrna, Kim and Terri. Sonsam racked up his 10th win in 13 starts for earnings over the \$200,000 mark.**



Horse "117"

**Midshipman wraps up the Hayes Memorial for Tom McNew and Sons and R. Knauff with a 1:57A heat. The Meadow Skipper colt, driven by Bill Haughton, had dropped his race mark to 1:58 earlier. He has a 1:57.1 tab taken at two.**