

1960

DuQuoin State Fair • August 31, 1960 • Purse \$144,590 Blaze Hanover: First 4-Heat Race at DuQuoin

The gruelling test of stamina and courage that befits a great and classic race like the Hambletonian was evident in the 1960 race, with the gutsy Blaze Hanover earning the winner's trophy after a long, tiring afternoon.

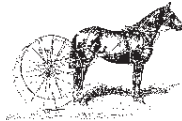
It was an exceptional field which faced the starting gate on this afternoon, with Blaze Hanover, a son of Hoot Mon owned by S. A. Camp Farms taking the first heat in 1:59⁴ equalling the stake mark held by Emily's Pride.

Not since 1934 had the Hambletonian gone four heats. In reality, it probably would not have gone that distance had O'Brien, driving Blaze Hanover, not clipped the wheel of another horse making the apparent winning move in the second heat, won in stake record time of 1:59³ by the Victory Song colt Quick Song and Frank Ervin.

The third heat was taken by Hoot Frost, a full brother to 1955 Hambletonian winner, Scott Frost, scoring for Jimmy Arthur in an identical 1:59³. It was the first time in history that a three heat race had the first three miles all trotted faster than 2:00.

The final, with so much speed, proved to be one of the most memorable of all time. The three speedsters loafed through an opening three-quarters of a mile in 1:43, but then thundered through the long stretch in an unbelievable :27³ final quarter with Blaze Hanover holding firm over Quick Song and Hoot Frost.

The purse was again a new record \$144,590 and the winner, again bred by Hanover Shoe Farms, proved his mettle in the heat of battle.



- A fourth heat race-off was required after Quick Song won the second heat and Hoot Frost won the third heat in identical miles of 1:59.3 – a stake record. Blaze Hanover equaled the existing record of 1:59.4 in winning the first heat.
- The long day was made even more difficult by a thermometer reading of 102 degrees, accompanied by Midwest August humidity – probably the hottest Hambletonian ever.
- The last quarter of the fourth heat race-off was 27.3, the fastest quarter ever in the Hambletonian at DuQuoin. The mile was in 2:10.3.

- It was Sol Camp and O'Brien's second Hambletonian win, and Blaze Hanover is the only chestnut to win the Hambletonian.
- O'Brien drove in 25 Hambletonians, second only to Miller's 26.
- Purchased by Italian interests a few weeks prior to the race, Hickory Fire, a full brother to 1957 winner Hickory Smoke, was driven by Walter Baroncini, the first European driver to start in the Hambletonian.

BLAZE HANOVER, ch c, by Hoot Mon—Beverly Hanover, by Mr. McElwyn
Driver & Trainer: Joe O'Brien
Owner: S. A. Camp Farms, Shafter, CA
Breeder: Hanover Shoe Farms, Hanover, PA
Groom: Stanley "Red" MacPherson
Sale History: \$27,000 yearling purchase at Standardbred Horse Sale
. . . . 1 7 3 1

LOWE HANOVER, by Star's Pride—Linda Dean, by Dean Hanover
Driver: Del Miller
Owner: Hempt and Cleveland . . . 4 2 2 ro

ELAINE RODNEY, by Rodney—Honor Bright, by Bill Gallon
Driver: Clint Hodgins
Owner: S. L. & K. Stables . . . 2 3 6 ro

QUICK SONG, by Victory Song—Lucille Spencer, by Averill
Driver: Frank Ervin
Owner: Castleton Farms . . . 3 1 4 2

HOOT FROST, by Hoot Mon—Nora, by Spencer
Driver: Jimmy Arthur
Owner: Armstrong Bros. . . 5 1 1 3

Also competed: Merrie Duke 17-4-9, Tonia Hanover 6-11-15, Carlene Hanover 7-5-7, In Haste 16-6-8, Mr. Pat 13-10-10, Lord Sampson 10-18-11, Darcie Hanover 11-8-dr, Uncle Sam 8-17-dr, Volo Mon 12-9-dr, Mystery Song 9-15-dr, Carlton 15-12-dr, Demon Ros 18-14-dr, Hickory Fire 19-16-dr, Star Performer 14-dr-dr.

| TIME BY QUARTERS: | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1/4 | 1/2 | 3/4 | MILE |
| :29 ⁴ | :59 ³ | 1:30 | 1:59 ⁴ |
| :29 ³ | :57 ³ | 1:29 ¹ | 1:59 ³ |
| :29 | :59 ³ | 1:29 ³ | 1:59 ³ |
| :33 ² | 1:08 ¹ | 1:43 | 2:10 ³ |

