

DEMON HANOVER 1:59.4 AT GAY ACRES FARM

The Champion Money-Winning Trotting Stallion Enters the Stud at Critchfield Bros. Farm

ONE fabulous chapter is over! "The Steamin' Demon" has whirled about the race track for the final time, but the memories of this dashing and dynamic trotter will linger long among harness horse enthusiasts. Now the next chapter is about to begin and a few years from now there will be sons and daughters of Demon Hanover to carry on his fame.

In the annals of the trotter and pacer Demon Hanover and his amateur trainer-driver, Harrison Hoyt, will always occupy a unique position. If one were to write the story as fiction, it would hardly be believed, so sensational were the racing feats of the beautifully-gaited son of Dean Hanover 3, 1:58 1/2 and the Volomite mare, Sorceress 2:13.

"It can't be done," "They'll never make it," etc., etc., was the expert's refrain prior to the 1948 Hambletonian. Skimming along like



a swallow, Demon Hanover never was even threatened in the blue ribbon classic. Then the knocker's bench intoned, "Wait until he tackles those free-for-all trotters." Demon Hanover did just that, tackled them and threw them for a loss, clinching his claims to true greatness by whipping Proximity in the \$50,000 Two Mile Trot, Chris Spencer third, and Chestertown fourth.

This season Demon Hanover wound up his racing career with major victories over all the best trotters, sending his earnings to the impressive total of \$187,344.61, tops for a trotting stallion, and second only to Proximity in the modern era. Incidentally, Proximity's total at the end of her six-year-old form was only \$101,629.27. Demon Hanover's 1951 winnings this season totaled \$48,385.

Demon Hanover's accomplishments in previous years are well known. Here we I will just skim the headlines of his final brilliant campaign. At Roosevelt Raceway the night of June 22, Demon Hanover, catch-driven by Wayne Smart, started in one of the \$5,000 qualifying dashes for the McConnell Memorial at a mile and a half for a \$5,000 purse.

Smart steadied Demon Hanover the first quarter then dashed on to the lead at the half in 1:02 and snapped out a sizzling pace, to the three-quarters in 1:33 1/5, the mile in 2:04 4/5. At this Point, instead of easing up a bit, Demon Hanover opened up a seven length gap to the mile and a quarter in 2:35 1/5 and "Curly" just sat there as he whirled on home by five in 3:06 2/5 over Star's Pride 4, 1:59. The time lowered Proximity's record for the distance by a second, was 1-3/5 seconds faster than Good Time's pacing standard of 3:08, and better than the mile track marks for the distance at either gait, namely Chris Spencer's 3:07 1/5 and Jerry the First's 3:06 3/5. Star's Pride cut a tick from the mark later, but Demon Hanover's was a superlative effort with speed to spare.

A heat the Demon Hanover lost by a couple of feet will also be long remembered. This was at Historic Track in the \$10,000 Titan free-for-all. Billy Haughton was up the second heat that day and had Demon Hanover winging at the word. Lord Steward kept him on the limb past the quarter in :29.4, but Demon had the track at the half in 1:01. On he flew, just scudding along to the three-quarters in 1:31.1/5.

The favored Star's Pride came driving in the lane but Demon Hanover was dead-game and held him off nearly to the wire. Right at the end Star's Pride took the verdict by two feet in a record-shattering 2:01 1/5, but there was plenty of credit to the plucky loser.

Harrison Hoyt invaded the Midwest with success this summer, first taking the \$10,000 Governor's Cup at Northville in straight dashes over a muddy track. Then came the \$15,300 Sportsman's Trot at a mile and a half, Pronto Don 1:593/5 the choice. After a handy first half in 1:05, Hoyt took over and whizzed the final mile in 2:032/5, last half in 1:012/5. Try as he would, Pronto Don didn't even make it close that night at the Illinois oval.

Timed in 1:593/5 when second to Star's Pride in 1:591/5 in the Trotting Derby, Demon Hanover next won a \$5,000 free-for-all at Westbury in 2:042/5, Bob Walker driving him home over Darn Flashy and Hadley Hanover easily. Thus tightened up for the \$25,000 American Trotting Championship, Demon Hanover was driven confidently by owner Hoyt. Away slowly and fifth to the quarter, Hoyt moved three wide to buzz past Hadley Hanover, Pronto Don and Darn Flashy, leading at the half in 1:01. Pronto Don came out again near the three-quarters in 1:322/5 but Demon fought him off. Then in the lane Darn Flashy streaked up at the rail, but Demon Hanover hung right on and hit the wire half a length to the good in 2:031/5, Pronto Don third.



the persistent work of Hank and Bob Critchfield resulted in his sale in early November. It is fitting that Demon Hanover should retire at the peak and must be classed as one of the finest trotting stallions the breed has ever had.

His combination of early speed and aged speed, perfect gait, ability to win on both mile and half-mile tracks, and negotiate extra distances in top form give him high rank. His bloodlines, doubling up the Dillon Axworthy 'blood through his sire and grandam, backed up by Margaret Parrish (fourth dam), dam of 2 in 2:00 and grandam of 5 in 2:00, present crosses that will blend ideally with many strains now ranked high among broodmares. Just offhand we would mention daughters of Mr. McElwyn, Spencer, Peter the Brewer, Scotland and, Protector as perfectly suited to cross with him and this is just a swift sampling.

Gay Acres Farm is fortunate indeed to secure such a remarkable young horse. If breeding and performance mean anything, Demon Hanover can hardly fail to be an outstanding sire. We believe his offspring will write many new chapters to add to the Demon Hanover saga.

Demon Hanover won the Two Mile Trot in 1949 from Proximity. Last year he was beaten by inches by Pronto Don and was coming on at the wire. This year Pronto Don again won it, but Demon Hanover set such a blistering pace that the World Record was lowered 61/5 seconds to 4:104/5, well below the pacing standard of 4:132/5 set this year by Scottish Pence. From the half in 1:03 Demon Hanover set the pace as follows: 1:34; 2:044/5; 2:352/5; 3:063/5; 3:383/5; and was beaten at the end a horse and sulky length, timed in 4:11.

Demon's swansong was in the \$10,000 Invitational Trot at Batavia Downs. Necked out the first heat in 2:052/5 by Silver Riddle, Demon Hanover came back to win the mile and a sixteenth heat in 2:122/5, topping the summary decisively, with Darn Flashy second. Prepping for the \$25,000 Yonkers feature trot, Demon Hanover developed a small swelling above one ankle, and Mr. Hoyt decided to stop with him rather than aggravate it. Though he had planned to race him again, the