

Du Quoin Grand Circuit

Two-Minute Trotters Shine

*Gay Blossom Wins First Hambletonian Filly Stake In Three Heats
Two-Year-Old Songcan In 2:00 For Tenth Straight Win*

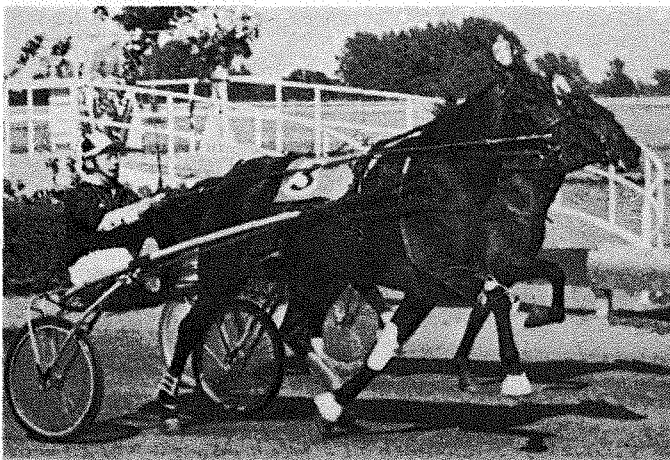
By Elizabeth Rorty

DU QUOIN, Ill., Sept. 1—Hambletonian Day at Du Quoin was trotting day all along the line, as the big race was backed up with three major trotting stakes. And what a day it was—season's records in every stake that was raced, a 2:00 trotting 2-year-old colt, a 2:00 trotting 3-year-old filly, and a 2:01 two-year-old trotting filly, all this in addition to Speedy Crown's superb 1:57.2-1:58.1 Hambletonian.

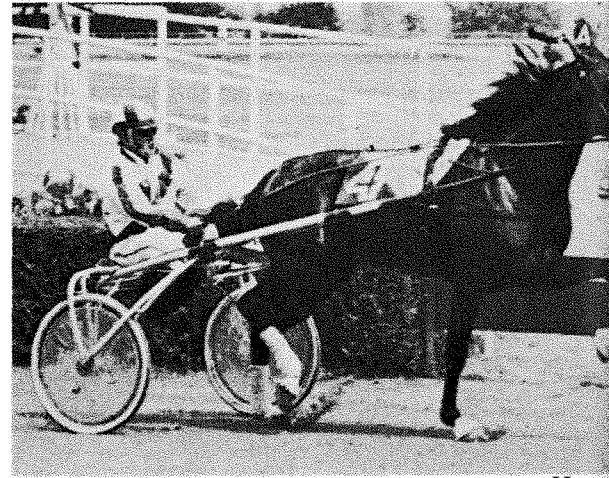
As it turned out, Wednesday was the final day of the Du Quoin Grand Circuit meeting, for both the Thursday and Friday programs were rained out, and with the caliber of the stock that was on the grounds and ready to go, this obviously cost the 1971 two-minute mile list a number of very fast additions.

First on Wednesday's all-trot card was Castleton Stake No. 26, traditional showcase for the season's best juvenile trotters and Hambletonian hopefuls of the coming year. And a showcase indeed it was for Songcan, unbeaten son of Florican-Ami Song by Victory Song, bred by Arden Homestead Stable, foaled the property of Cannon Acres, Georgetown, Ky. and owned by Don Hy Stables, Inc. of Forest Hills, N. Y.... his owner's very first horse.

Songcan was 8 for 8 prior to this race, driven in his every start by Gilles LaChance, and boasting stakes victories in the Hanover-Hempt, the Battle of Saratoga, the Harriman Challenge Cup, the Reynolds Memorial, the Arden Downs Stake and the Batavia Colt Stake. Staked mostly in the east, he faced a better field at Du Quoin than he had previously met, but he beat them for fun, becoming the 13th two-year-old trotter ever to go in 2:00, and the ninth to race into that exclusive list.



Horseman Photo
Delmonica Hanover (Speedy Count), owned by Delvin Miller and Arnold Hanger, and driven by Jolm Simpson, Jr., spurts up outside of Franella Hanover to complete straight heat victory in Breeders Filly Stake in 2:01 season's record.



Horseman Photo
Songcan, fastest two-year-old trotter of 1971 and the 2:00 2-year-old trotter for Florican, here takes first 1/4 mile of the Castleton Stake for Gilles LaChance and the Du Quoin Grand Circuit. He came back in 2:00 to wrap it up.

LaChance took him right to the top from his fourth start in the first heat, reaching the quarter in :29.1, but then he eased the pace to the half in 1:01.3, and lazing to the quarters in 1:34 as nobody challenged. When Star's Super Bowl and Flush came out after him, Songcan leashed a :29 final quarter for an easy 2:03 season's win, Super Bowl getting up for second over Flush and Chip.



Horseman Photo
Hambletonian Society president Max Hempt presents Circuit Award of Merit to Mrs. Leah Hayes, representing the Hayes family, for their great contribution to the sport of harness racing at the Roarin' Grand. Left is ringmaster Kenneth Pease.

The second heat was a different story, for nobody was letting Songcan loaf that time. Again going right to the top, he hit the fractions in :29, :59.1, rounded the bend in 1:29.2, and instead of dying as many thought he might, went right on when challenged in the stretch to win going away, never touched by the whip, with LaChance sitting still and chirping to him. He was home in 2:00 flat, Super Bowl again second, Star's Chip third and Lasalle Hanover fourth.

Songcan, still undefeated, and now 10 for 10, has earned \$50,815 for his owners. He's the fourth 2:00 two-year-old trotter for Florican, who is the all-time leading sire in that department.

The crowd had barely settled down after the first Hambletonian heat when marshal Barbara Green paraded a dozen 3-year-old trotting fillies for the inaugural racing of the \$31,500 Hambletonian Filly Stake. The field included the fastest and the richest trotting fillies competing this year, and they staged a bitter, split-heat battle guaranteed to make this new stake one of tremendous prestige from here on out. It was Castleton Farm's Gay Blossom, a homebred daughter of Florican from Indiscreet by The Intruder, who finally wound up in the winners circle with trainer Glen Garnsey, another 2:00 trotter for her sire, after dropping the first heat in 2:00.3 to Beloved Way, by Star's Pride-Beloved, Walnut Hall Farm bred sister to Hambletonian winner Keny Way.

Gay Blossom took the early lead in the first trip, then yielded to Desert Wind, but in the stretch John Simpson, Jr. came out with Beloved Way for a safe win over Gay Blossom, Waverly Hostess and Scot's Joy. The 2:00.3 time knocked a full four seconds off Beloved Way's previous record.

The second heat found Gay Blossom out first, then Waverly Hostess took over, then Scot's Joy, and then there was a roar from the crowd as Desert Wind shot to the lead at the three-quarters. In the stretch Desert Wind and Beloved Way were head and head, and Bill Hayes' Florican filly looked like a winner, until in the closing yards, Gay Blossom came flying from behind for Glen Garnsey to take the heat in 2:00 flat, Desert Wind second and Beloved Way third, in a spectacular finish. Jay's Gal was fourth and Scot's Joy fifth.

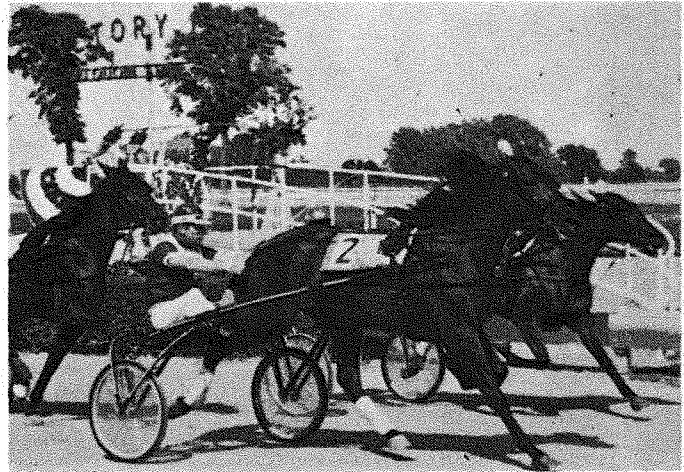
Stake conditions required a race-off for the two heat winners, and although that third heat was the final contest of the afternoon and required a long wait before the fillies came back, scarcely a hundred of the thousands in the stand left their seats. In Illinois, they love harness racing.

Gay Blossom led through the expected leisurely fractions, with John Simpson, Jr. keeping Beloved Way right behind, and the three-quarters was reached in 1:38 - but then came the fireworks, as Glen Garnsey lit the match, and Castleton's daughter of Florican turned on a final quarter in :28.1 for a 2:06.1 victory.

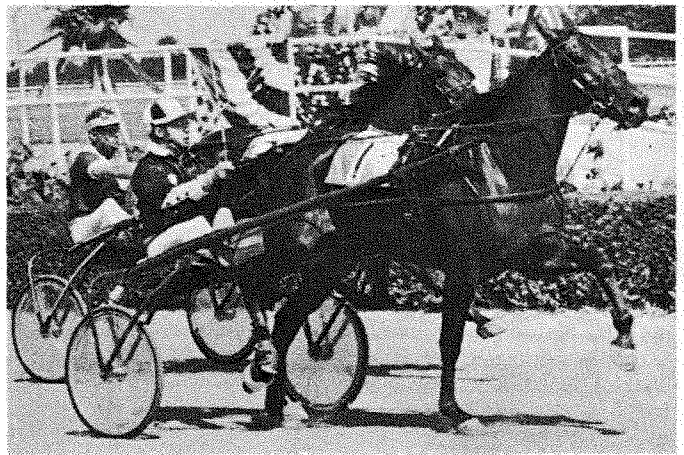
Gay Blossom, the tenth 2:00 trotter for Florican and his second of the afternoon, took home \$13,781.25 for her afternoon's work, in her sixth win this season, but first stakes victory. Beloved Way earned \$8,788.50, Desert Wind \$4,252.50, with Waverly Hostess, Scot's Joy and Jay's Gal also earning a share of the purse.

Completing the day's card was the \$7,978 Almahurst Farm 2-year-old filly trot, and Delmonica Hanover, Hanover-bred daughter of Speedy Count-Delicious by Kimberly Kid, racked up her eighth and ninth wins, and her fourth major stakes victory in a row with a 2:02.4 and 2:01 season's record performance for John Simpson, Jr.

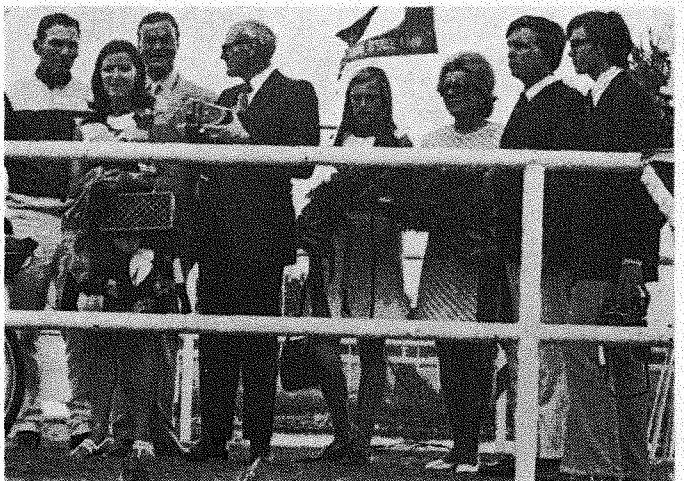
Delmonica Hanover, owned by Delvin Miller and W. Arnold Hanger, and trained by Delvin, had been catch-driven



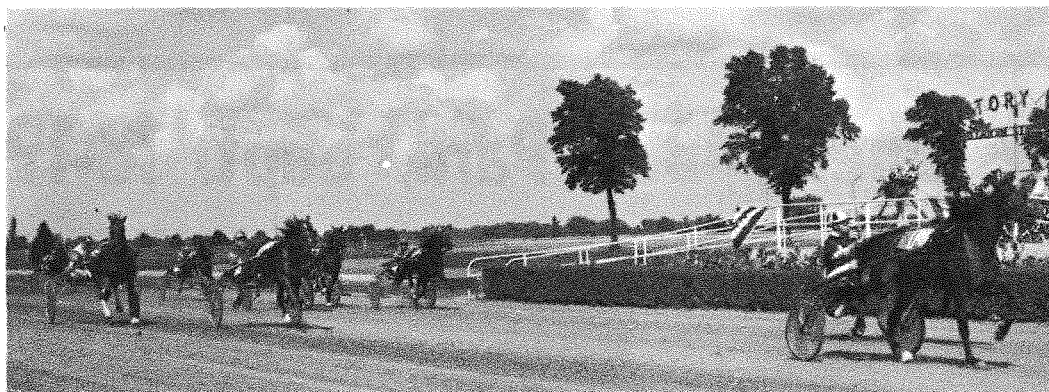
Horseman photo
Castleton Farm's Florican filly Gay Blossom (2-Glen Garnsey) defeats Desert Wind, also by Florican, on rail for Jack Bailey, in 2:00 season's record in second heat of the inaugural edition of the Hambletonian Filly Stake.



Horseman photo
Beloved Way, owned by Gainesway Farm and bred by Walnut Hall Farm, gets up outside of Gay Blossom to win first heat of the Hambletonian Filly Stake in 2:00.3 for John Simpson, Jr. By Star's Pride-Beloved, she is a full sister to Hambletonian winner Kerry Way, 3, 1:58.4.



Horseman photo
Fred Van Lennep of Castleton Farm, driver Glen Garnsey and Mrs. Paula Garnsey accept Gay Blossom's Hambletonian Filly trophy as Mrs. Van Lennep, Fredericka and John Van Lennep (right) join winner's circle ceremonies. The inaugural edition of the new filly stake was worth \$31,500.



Clarence F. Gaines's Beloved Way, driven by Johnny Simpson, Jr., outtrots Gay Blossom (obscured by the winner) in the 2:00% first heat of the \$31,500 inaugural filly division of the Hambletonian.

Savoir and A.C.'s Orion, both capable of spectacular come-from-behind finishes, now swung into action. The former closed from fifth and the latter from sixth to overtake Quick Pride and finish noses apart, but in no way endangering the leader.

The two Speedy Scot sophomores tangled early again in the second encounter. Hoot Speed struck first from the far outside eighth post and showed the way past the quarter pole with Speedy Crown second and Savoir racing third followed by A.C.'s Orion.

Speedy Crown overpowered the leader before the half only to be engaged after passing that station by Savoir. The Star's Pride gelding ranged alongside the leader in the upper turn and might have inched in front by a nose.

When they entered the stretch, however, Speedy Crown was back in front, and in the dash to the wire he extended his margin to 2 1/2 lengths over Savoir. Hoot Speed, staying flat the entire mile this time, stayed in the forefront of the race all the way and finished third with A.C.'s Orion fourth.

DRIVER'S QUOTES (1st Heat)

HOWARD BEISSINGER (Speedy Crown)-"Speedy Crown showed plenty of speed. Quick Pride went and I went right with him. I didn't have too much trouble getting to the front. The time is a new record for the horse. I trained him where I thought I'd have to race him. These are good three-year-olds. Hoot Speed got up along side of me in the turn and might have had a nose in front briefly. Speedy Crown stayed on the rail and went a fine race."

JIMMY ARTHUR (Savior)-My colt raced all he could. He had all he wanted. We had a good trip, no interference at any time. I moved Savoir from fifth just before the half. He usually comes back good in the second heat but I don't think he can beat Speedy Crown today."

BILLY HAUGHTON (AC.'s Orion)-"My horse got rank at the head of the stretch. When it got a little tight I had to come out a little sooner than I wanted to. Otherwise I think we could have got second. I felt the way this horse raced last week that we had a shot. The best horse won the first heat and had Hoot Speed not been parked, he probably would have been right there. I don't think anyone was going to beat the winner."

STANLEY DANCER (Quick Pride)--"I'd love to have trips like that every time. My horse just didn't have it. I really believe he's as good now as he has been-it's just that the other horses have improved so much."

(2nd Heat)

HOWARD BEISSINGER (Speedy Crown)--"This is the greatest thing that can happen to any trainer and driver. I had a lot of confidence in Speedy Crown all the

way and frankly I wasn't a bit worried when Hoot Speed took the lead early. I figured I'd better get back on top though before we got into the turn to avoid getting locked in. He came home like a champion. He's a wonderful colt."

JIMMY ARTHUR (Savior)-"He outtrotted me again. He was the best horse today. My horse trotted real well and hasn't raced any faster all year. He usually comes back strong in the second heat, and he did again. I tested the winner pretty good around the far turn, but he was just better than we were today."

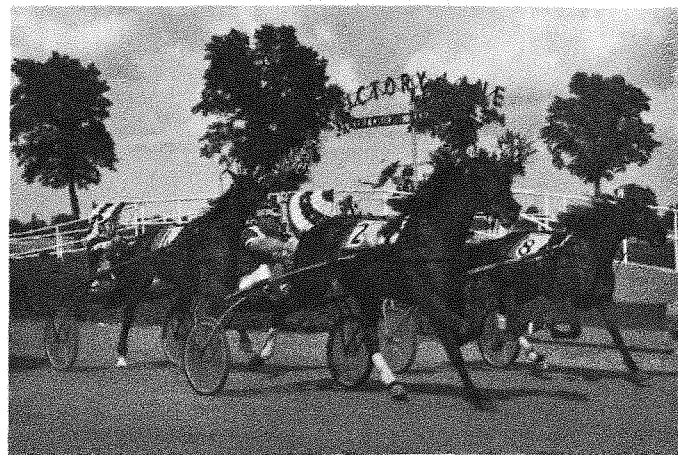
GLEN GARNSEY (Hoot Speed)-"He didn't seem just right. He wasn't as good as he's been, but it was a great horse who beat us. My horse just wasn't at his best and went off stride in the first heat, after a tough front end. I had to use him too much early because we got parked on the outside of horses both trips, but if he'd been at his best he could have handled the problem."

P. J. BAUGH, JOHN SIMPSON, SR. ELECTED HAMBLETONIAN DIRECTORS

P. J. Baugh and John Simpson, Sr., masters of Almahurst Farms, Lexington, Ky., and Hanover Shoe Farms, Hanover, Pa., respectively, have been elected as new directors of the Hambletonian Society, the organization which guides the destinies of the renowned Hambletonian Stake, harness racing's best-known event.

Baugh, a North Carolina state senator and one of the nation's foremost standardbred breeders, is also a member of the board of directors of the U.S. Trotting Ass., harness racing's governing body.

Simpson, renowned early in his career as one of the



Castleton Farm's Gay Blossom sends the first racing of the filly division of the Hambletonian into a race-off by winning the second heat in 2:00 flat for Glen Garnsey. The daughter of Florican-Indiscreet also won the race-off in 2:06 1/8 from first heat winner Beloved Way.