

step very fast, and doesn't hit herself anywhere, being clean gaited, with a rapid, well-timed stroke. Lou Dillon's previous foals were by John A. McKerron 2:34½ and Bingen (she lost her 1915 weanling by The Harvester), but none of them compared with Expressive Lou.

When Single G. took Russell Day's measure, pacing the second heat 2:20, he is an immediate candidate for 2:30 honors loomed upon the pacing horizon. He will do better than even time the first occasion when Curt Gosnell finds the track and weather conditions suitable—that there can be little doubt. Some critics attributed Russell Day's defeat to the fact that he was "too hot," which, they say, caused him to tire. While treating the subject of free-for-all pacers, I will relate with pleasure that F. G. Jones worked Mr. Geers' Napoleon Direct 2:08½ in 2:02½ Friday, the stallion showing no sign of his age. He lost to Ben White stepped a mile and a half in 2:04½, and in 2:01½ in 2:01½. He was started against The Harvester's record at the second North Randall meeting, and looks to have an even chance to lower it—he is now in superb condition. Tommy Murphy is also in fine condition, and will probably hold the 1:57½ on Saturday, and the champion, too, is in the form of his life; he will be reserved for exhibitions.

"Big" Shively showed up what seems to be the best pacing son of Dan Patch 1:55½ in the stallion Gilbert Patch 2:06½, with which he won here. The horse is very handsome, and has a world of speed. W. H. Grosch, of Milverton, Ont., bred and owns him.

CRIT DAVIS

The announcement of the death of trainer Crit Davis at Lexington, Ky., on Sunday, July 16, reached us only in time for a brief news item in last week's REVIEW, but now demands more extended mention. The deceased was sixty-eight years of age, consequently had almost attained the "golden age" of life, and he died of a heart ailment, which followed an illness of but a few days, has come unexpectedly, for his friends in the horse world had been in the habit of looking upon him as a man destined to remain in the saddle for many a month more.

Crit Davis, who was born in or near Harrodsburg, Ky., and resided there when first he became prominent as a horseman, was probably the senior, in actual prominence, among trotting trainers of wide reputation, at the time of his death; not only so, but he was one of the 2:21 with the gray gelding Phil Thompson, the previous mark having been the 2:23½ of Jewett, made in 1873. Phil Thompson's achievement was made at Chicago, over the old "best track" where he won a stakes worth \$2,200, beating Director 2:17 and Clemmie G. 2:15, both four-year-olds, as well as several others, in 2:25, 2:24½, 2:21, and his mark stood for two years until lowered to 2:20 by Hinda Rose, in 1883. His performance in the world record, and the fact that he later gave him his ultimate record of 2:16½, at the Cleveland Grand Circuit meeting, at about which time he was sold for \$18,000. At this same meeting Davis drove Maude Messenger to victory, also in 2:15½, and it is said that up to that time these were the two fastest records ever to two different trotters by one driver, at the same meeting.

The next great trotter that Crit Davis developed was the unforgettable chestnut gelding Prince Wilkes, who won all three "big" stakes at Harrodsburg, and bred in and around Harrodsburg, and both Phil Thompson and Prince Wilkes were by Red Wilkes. It was in 1873 that the late W. H. Wilson took George Wilkes 2:22 to Kentucky, and, as a result of this, the late W. H. Wilson and the Blue Grass for the most part turned away in disdain from "Bill Simmons' baked-up pony." But Crit Davis, though a young man of twenty-five, with faith in the future, was of a different mind, and he was not content to let the record stand as it was, and Dolly Spanker a daughter of Mambrino Chief that he owned, called Queen Dio. The result of the union was a bay colt that grew into Red Wilkes—one of the pre-eminent sons of his immortal sire, and a producer of many of the 2:15 and 2:16 record-breakers, including the world's champion trotter, Ullian 1:58, and The Harvester 2:01, the champion stallion.

Red Wilkes, although he never acquired a standard record, was a very fast colt trotter for his day, and in 1878 he took George Wilkes, who later won at Lexington, not only beating, but distancing, the sensational filly and later famous race mare, Trinket 2:14, and others. It may also be recorded that Phil Thompson was not his first colt, but he was, for he had a son, called a daughter by George Wilkes, he thrice lowered the record for two-year-olds, first to 2:40½ to 2:38½, and later on to 2:31½ and then to 2:31. So he was another of that first crop of Kentucky-bred George Wilkes foals that the world has never seen, and the fact that the chances that really inaugurated the "Wilkes boom," which was destined to endure, until there is today no other trotting family which can compare with that of George Wilkes in extent and influence. Crit Davis was one of

the men most largely responsible for the rise and growth of this great breeding movement, and on this account may be stamped himself as one of the most important influences of his time upon trotting evolution, if not of all time.

Prince Wilkes he brought out as a five-year-old, in 1886, and won with him a series of brilliant Grand Circuit events, his only defeat being in the \$10,000 Charter Oak stake, at Hartford, in which, however, he was one of the chief contenders, and served notice that he was a star of the first magnitude. In 1887 he again won all his races with one exception, and took a record of 2:16 when he beat Belle Hamlin 2:12½, colt, at Lexington. His sole defeat was, as the previous season, in the Charter Oak stake, in which he was this time defeated by Patron 2:14½. The race led to the memorable series of matches between the two in 1888, every one of which he won. He lost but one race that year, too, this being to that erratic speed marvel, Guy 2:09½. He beat Patron four times, defeated both Guy and Clingstone, and bowled over Rosalind Wilkes twice, taking, in one of his races against her, his record of 2:14½. He was now the confessed champion trotter of the American turf, and not long after the close of the campaign was sold by his owner, the late George A. Slingerly, of Philadelphia, for \$30,000, to Señor Bocau, of Buenos Ayres, and exported to South America.

After his sale Davis remained associated with Mr. Slingerly, who maintained breeding operations in Kentucky, also campaigned a stable on the Grand Circuit and elsewhere, for a number of years. During this period Davis also trained horses belonging to others, and among some of his famous pupils were Reputation, 3,



CRIT DAVIS

2:21, Dandy Jim 2:04½ (the "gray ghost"), Bonnie Wilmore 2:14½ (with which he won the only heat ever lost in a race by Nancy Hanks 2:04), Dan Cupid 2:09½, and numerous others. Probably the greatest trotter with which he was ever associated, however, was the bay mare Harrietta 2:08½, bred and then owned by the late Erastus Corning, of Albany, N. Y. With her, in 1893, he made a grand campaign, ending up with a sparkling victory in the Transylvania, at Lexington, over the heavy favorite, Phoebe Wilkes 2:08½, and a field of cracker.

When the panic of '93, and subsequent paralysis of the industry during the "free silver" period ensued, Crit Davis followed the example of other trotting trainers, and went over to the runners, whose prosperity seemed less affected at the time. As a trainer of thoroughbreds for Mr. Slingerly and others, including the late James E. Pepper, he won some delicate success, notably with Han O'or, one of the fastest sons of Hanover, with which he captured the Latonia Derby of 1898 in the record-breaking time, for the mile and a half, of 2:32½; and the brilliant mare Roxane, winner of a series of fast and valuable events. But in the end the trotters hired him back, and for the past decade he had been again a "sulky knight." Among the good horses that he either marked or had a hand in developing during this time were the paces George Gano 2:02, Graham Baughman 2:04½, Homer Baughman, 2:08½, etc., etc., and the trotters Miss Maria 2:11½, Belle Ashland 2:10, etc., etc. He also drove Cochita a trial in 2:06½.

Crit Davis' long career was one undeviatingly honorable. No man whose service upon the turf was so extended and so prominent was ever more free from any taint of scandal, which never in any way affected his name or reputation. He enjoyed the confidence and respect of all who knew or associated with him. Personally he was modest, retiring, averse to "reclaim," or self-advertisement, and, in all his dealings, looking always to the interests of his employer. In these respects no professional reinsman or trainer ever reflected great-

er credit upon the turf. His achievements speak for his abilities. He was a man of brains, versatility and mental resource, and, in his prime, a splendid one physically. He was one of the school of colt-developers that rose in this country forty years ago, whose pioneering in their field exerted such an influence upon the future of the trotting industry, and as such he will be long remembered. As a reinsman he had, perhaps, but one shortcoming to be noted. The Crit Davis method, handed at one period of his career, of many of his horses inclined to take a strong hold of the iron. Prince Wilkes was one of these, and it was in order to control such horses that the dead man invented and patented the "dead man's" "G. D. D." bit, whose pioneering in its field which came later to be known as "bird-cage bits," and for a number of years were seen everywhere upon trotting tracks, some of them having excrescences that did far more harm than good. However, probably the most effective model of all these devices, and from time to time may still be seen upon some hard-mouthed or willful trotter.

The American turf will always need men of the type of Crit Davis, whose names will be listed the regret of all lovers of the sport.

VOLUNTEER.

NEXT AT GALESBURG

As the REVIEW goes to press entries to open purses have closed at Peoria, and judging from the talk, the seven events very likely will fill well. Galesburg next on the Great Western Circuit route, with the same open classes and purses as at Peoria, and they close for entries on Aug. 1 with Secretary Edward A. Tate.

COAL IRON AND OIL CIRCUIT

This series of Pennsylvania circuits has eleven members for 1916 and five of them display their cards with the essential particulars. Altoona is the curtain-raiser, Aug. 9-11, the circuit ending with Dayton and Myersdale the week of Sept. 19. There are four double-headers, as all the meetings come in the two fair months, and that fact will work no hardship on the leads off with the closing dates, Aug. 2, next Wednesday, Secretary C. G. Brenneman being the receiver. The cards of the other members will be presented well ahead of the closing dates.

NORTH RANDALL'S FAIR MEETING

The popular three-heat plan will be the racing system of the North Randall fair and Grand Circuit meeting Aug. 21-26, and the list of open purses is given in full this week. Each of the thirteen events is for a purse of \$1,200, which, with the \$1,000 purse at Altoona, leads off with the closing dates, Aug. 2, next Wednesday, Secretary C. G. Brenneman being the receiver. The cards of the other members will be presented well ahead of the closing dates.

THE JANESVILLE FAIR

REVIEW readers have by this time become familiar with the Janesville, Wis., race program for Aug. 8-11. The live fair association, a member of the Wisconsin Grand circuit, has a special reminder in this week's REVIEW, apropos of entries closing Saturday, July 29, all returnable with Speed Superintendent Chas. S. Putnam.

\$4,000 AT TROY

Although there will be but two days' racing at Troy, N. Y., Aug. 20 and 31, horsemen are offered large purses. The major event is the \$4,000 purse for the racing free-for-all \$1,000, and \$600 are for 2:25, 2:19, 2:12 and three-year-old trotters, 2:17 and 2:12 pacers. The Troy meeting is right after the Orange county races and the opening meeting at North Randall on a par with that held last week. The fair card provided five days' racing, with a four-race card each of the days, with the usual time allowances to be claimed on the entry-closing date, which is Aug. 8, at North Randall, with Secretary H. J. Kilmer.

YOUNGSTOWN'S SECOND MEETING

YOUNGSTOWN, better known among horsemen as "The Goshen of the West," is offering a great speed program for the second meeting, Aug. 28-Sept. 2. There are five days' racing, three and four classes each day. The following are the classes: Two-year-old, three-year-old, four-year-old, 2:10, 2:15, 2:17, 2:19, 2:22 and 2:27, trotting; 2:08, 2:11, 2:15, 2:16, 2:18, 2:20 and 2:25, pacing. The three colt events are \$400 each, with special money division in the 2:15 and 2:16 classes, and special money for the 2:20 and 2:25 classes. The 2:28 pace and 2:12 trot each are for \$600, with a valuable cup presented by the Albany Hotel to the driver of the winner of the latter. The plant at Youngstown is the best equipped in the State, and the racing is very fast. There are plenty of stalls, good water, and all in all, there is not an equal to the facilities for horsemen as offered at Southern Park trotting track. Entries close Tuesday, Aug. 22, and race on Wednesday, Aug. 23.

The complete program appears in the Ohio Racing Circuit advertisement elsewhere in this issue, and we trust that horsemen, after reading the full card, will decide to race at Youngstown, and that they will be glad to enter on the program. The address is given in the advertisement.