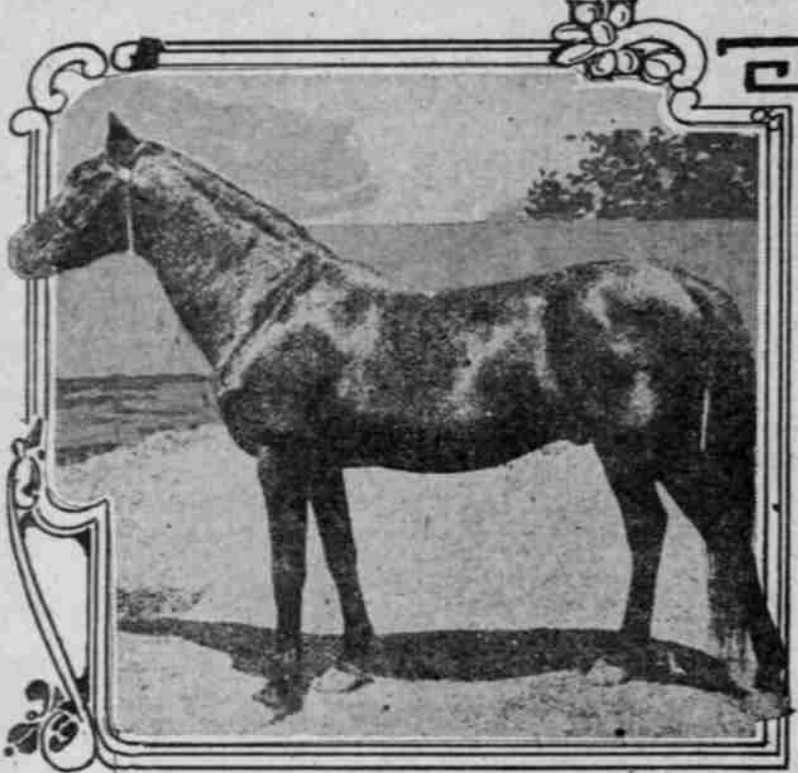


# Speedy Oregon Horses

## Famous Equines Of Long Ago Leave Fast Progeny

## Many Notable Racers Have Been Bred In State

Pioneers Brought Purpose to Develop a Noble Breed of Horses and Turf History Grew Apace—Altamont and Other Famous Sires, Produce Many Fast Performers—Some Oregon Horsemen and Their Achievements.



Altamont-2-26 3/4. An Early day Sire That Made Oregon Horses Known on the Grand Circuit.

BY G. A. WESTGATE.  
THERE is a certain persistency about a horseman. He is apt to find his share of bad luck, in fact, his career is full of it. But, just beyond, in the time when a certain colt in the pasture is to pad up the family fortunes. The old man sees his picture in the Horse Review, with floral horse-shoe and other accompaniments. It is the hopefulness of the horseman and the breeder that keeps alive interest in the harness horse, in the midst of vast exploitation for mechanical substitutes. To the born horseman, the horse is the king of beasts and the noblest of the four-footed, while a good pair, on a smooth road, is the pleasantest earthly means of transportation. Oregon has had a share of this type of humanity. Oregon horsemen live long and reach mellow age still with a hold on the reins. Lute Lindsey is the dean of the corps, and is an active man, though well up in the eighties. Pap Mosher is in California, hale and hearty. The Childs family now comprises several generations of drivers. John Sawyer is but a boy and appears every Fall for the word when the races are called. The old-time Oregon breeders have passed on, but their work remains, and the strains of equine blood they established are still potent, as the summaries show.

The late M. D. Wisdom was the Northwest historian of the harness horse. For many years he wrote, planned and directed for the best interests of the turf. To his view, the Northwest was the natural home of the horse and in his vision, better blood, better racing programmes, with the stimulation of objectional track features, would interest good men in the game and keep them there. It is a mistake to assume that a wellbred trotter is a mere racing machine. He is a business horse, a fun horse, a work horse, a war horse and can answer more fully than any other, besides man, in the "creaturehood".

In the states where men really live, where regard for out of doors is a principle of conduct, the horse is an institution. In the Northwest, in the South, in California, and through the Blue Grass region, the part of the nation with most romantic flavor in their history, the horse has been and is held in high esteem. The pioneers of Oregon had in their number men who brought to the new soil turf traditions and a purpose to develop here a noble tribe of horses.

So came Oregon Pathfinder, Rockwood, Hambletonian, Mambrino, Fred Hambleton, Planter, Autocrat and Altamont, to become in their hour "lords of the ascendant".

Turf history in Oregon was easier to make, it seems, than to write. A well-known local trainer commented a while ago to set down his experiences and recollections, but the first chapter became an orphan, for the hoof marks of the early days are hard to find. Ghosts there are, four-footed and swift, along the old White House road, at Witch Hazel, Vancouver, Hillsboro, Broadmead, Salem, Albany and about the tracks east of the mountains, for a horse has his claim to spookhood quite as much as another, and the equine greatness of the past is not departed. At least, this theory is held where the Winter smokes curls above the training quarters.

Old-timers in Oregon liked the long gun and the fishing rod. Also, they liked the harness horse. Good blood, for the times, was brought out and from the foundation of many years ago some really notable race performers rose.

It is hard to say on which side of the Columbia certain horses were foaled, and for proper purposes of appreciation it is fair to consider Northwest horses, rather than merely those bred in what is now the State of Oregon. Mostly, though, Oregon breeders and Oregon horses are to be considered. Jay Beach, Van De Lashmuit, Thomas H. Tongue and Ladd & Reed had a large place in foundation breeding. The sires that have produced the most speed in Oregon is Altamont 2:26, with



Chehalis-2-04 1/4. Fastest Trotter Bred in Northwest.

a wagon record of 2:26 3-4. Altamont was a bay or brown stallion foaled in 1876, bred by Colonel R. West, Georgetown, Kentucky, and brought to the West by Jay Beach, then of Fort Klamath, Or. His sire was the famous Almond 2:3, son of Alexander's Abdallah 1:5, sire of Goldsmith Maid, 2:14, and a family builder. Altamont's dam was by Brown Chief, son of Mambrino Chief, his other maternal foundation being thoroughbred. Altamont was a horse of medium size, good finish and fixed his type upon his descendants in a remarkably potent manner. His claims to greatness have been quite generally admitted and his name is a household word with harness horsemen. His opportunities were limited for many years, as good mares were scarce and Altamont rose to greatness through merit, lacking the prompting of wealthy ownership.

**Fast Stock Is Bred.**  
The Altamonts were a game race, inclining to spiciness of disposition, living to old age and able to come back in long-drawn-out races. Of 2:10 performers, Altamont sired seven, the pacer Chehalis, 2:04 1/4; Del Norte, 2:08; Ella T., 2:08 1/4; Doc Sperry, 2:09; Pathmore, 2:09 1/4; and the trotter Alameda, 2:09 1/4, and Altai, 2:09 1/4. Daughters of Altamont produced five in the 2:10 list, and his sons Chehalis, Del Norte and others are recognized in the "Great Table." It is a curious circumstance that much of Altamont's greatness is shared by the famous broad mare Tecora, who, mated with him, produced eight performers in the list, including Chehalis, 2:04 1/4, and Del Norte, 2:08, and a daughter of Altamont and Tecora, Beulah, is the dam of The Zep, 2:09, one of the fastest trotters in Oregon history; a handsome stallion bred by Jasper Reeves, of Cornelius, Or., raced through the East and later sold for export. Tecora has been termed the "Beautiful Belle of the North." Another matron whose blood united famously with that of Altamont was Sally M., known as Sally-Come-Up, and the dam of Altai, 2:09 1/4, and Pathmore, 2:09 1/4.

What speed Tecora had is not known to the writer. But Lute Lindsey is authority for the statement that Sally M was a mare with much speed and a good brusher on the White House Road. Of the more famous descendants of Altamont and Tecora, Del Norte remains in a hale old age, near Walla Walla. Altai, 2:13, is in Portland. Chehalis, 2:04 1/4, a stallion of rare beauty is dead. He appeared in many campaigns and in addition to the usual routine, for a time held the world's two-mile pacing record, if memory serves, of 4:19 1/4, taken at the State Fair grounds track.

Del Norte raced his turn and was then put to "guideless" exhibitions, with a mile claimed in 2:04 in this way of going. Altai was a mighty racehorse and Alameda a sweet-going trotter and one of the handsomest of the Altamont family. The Altamonts are going on through second and third generations. What this horse might have done at Palo Alto, or some such establishment, is an interesting problem. Perhaps he was cast for his Oregon environment, but evidently would have been one of the world's really great sires with opportunity. Altamont died some ten years ago in California, having been for a long time "like Homer and like Belshazzar, blind."

Klamath, 2:07 1/2, by Morooko, son of Altamont, was one of the world's famous trotters in his day and was perhaps the greatest trotter of about 1890 or 1897. Klamath was bred at Olney, Or., and took his record at Columbus, Ohio, August 5, 1896.

**Some Eminent Oregon Breeders.**  
Van B. De Lashmuit, once Mayor of Portland, had at Witch Hazel a horse farm famous in its day, and WRH Hazel colts and matured horses were first in many races. Here was the home of Hambletonian Mambrino 5:24, a horse of which much was expected, and which sired Carlye Carne, 2:11 1/4, and several other speedy animals. Blondie was another Witch Hazel farm stallion. Mr. De Lashmuit was an enthusiastic horseman, and probably is yet Pathfinder, Rockwood, Autocrat and Caution were useful sires.

Thomas H. Tongue, who for several years, and until the time of his death, ably represented the First District in Congress, was a horseman of wide information and bred many good ones. Fred Hambleton, 2:26, Planter, 2:18, son of Panceost and later, Lovelace, 2:20, a fashionably bred sire, were used at the Tongue Farm. Lovelace sired Lord Lovelace, fastest Oregon bred pacer, as



Alameda-2-09 1/4. Fastest Trotting Daughter Of Famous Altamont.

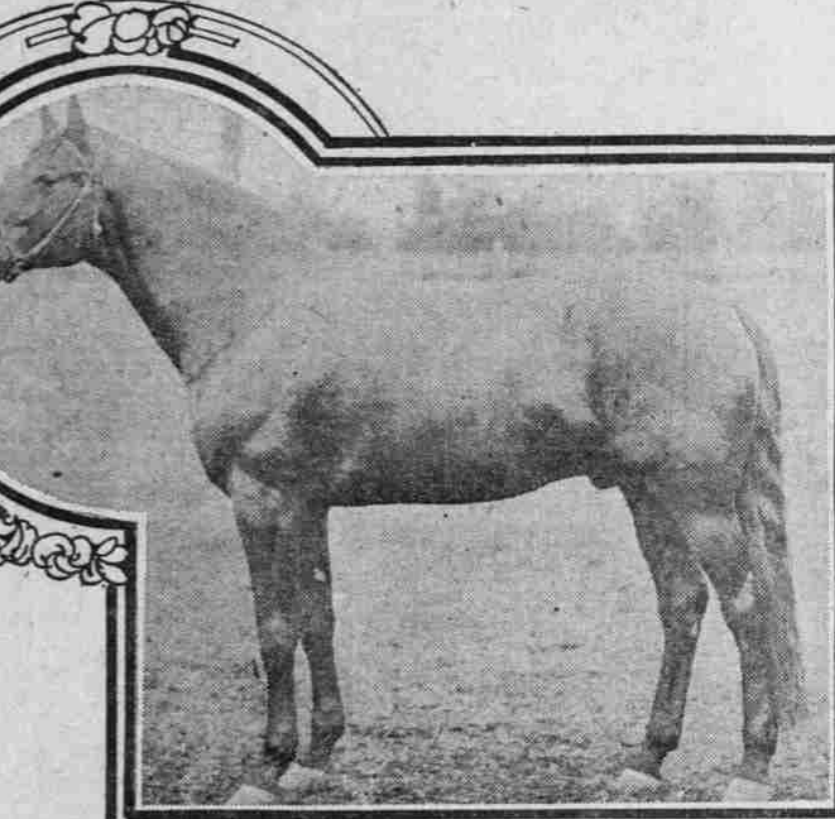
Chehalis, 2:04 1/4, halls in the books from Vancouver, Wash. It remained for Lord Lovelace to meet the crack southern pacer a few years ago in the pacing classic at the Oregon State Fair and defeat them both in the mud and the dry, which was certainly pacing quite a bit.

Dr. T. W. Harris, of Eugene, a physician learned in horse lore, a judge at horse shows, to whom the horse game in all its phases was interesting, brought out a number of trotters. Memo, son of Sidney, was a stallion, he expected much from Memo sired handsome roadsters and many of his get had speed. A daughter of Memo produced the fast pacer Charley D., 2:06 1/4. Dr. Harris at one time owned Antevolo and Farotus Wilkes. Some of the old-time horsemen started at Hambletonian 10 and went back in their theories, but many others were and are strictly up to date. Lady Jones, 2:07 1/4, the only trotter to defeat The Harvester, 2:01, was raised here by J. A. Jones, of Newberg, her sire being Captain McKinley, also being owned by Mr. Jones.

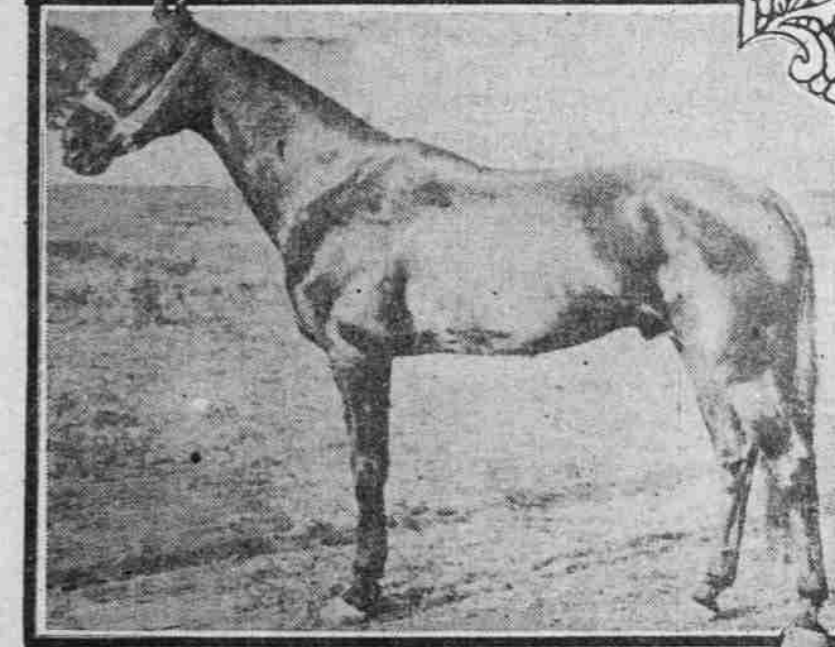
To this recollection Mack Mack, 2:08, is the fastest Oregon-bred trotter. Mack Mack was a big bay gelding, bred in the Umpqua country, and met the good trotters of the Grand Circuit. He is a son of McKinley, 2:11 1/4, king of speed sires.

McKinley spent several Springs in Oregon, as did his distinguished sons, Zombro, 2:11, and Zolock, 2:05 1/4. Belle, most, 2:09 1/4, daughter of Daisy Q. Hill, by Altamont, a famous race mare, was the result of Zombro's first season in this state. Diablo, 2:09 1/4, a great sire, also spent a couple of years at Salem, and some of his Northwest descendants are most promising race material.

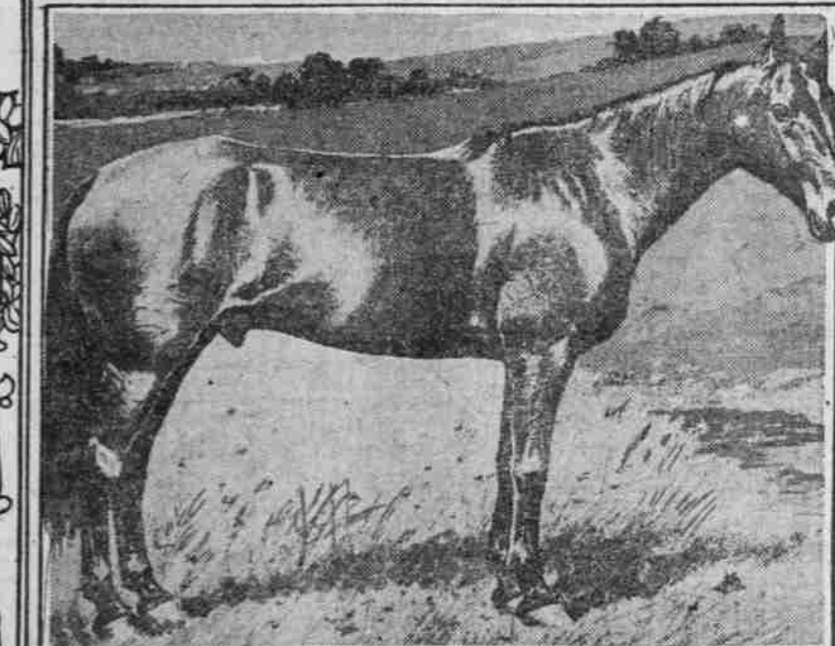
Last year Captain C. P. McCan, of Hood River, a young man of wealth, who was attracted to the Oregon country and established his home in the happy valley of the apples, determined to become a breeder of fine horses. So he bought The Patchen Boy (S), 2:10 1/4, a good pacer and a successful sire and



Hal B.-2-04 1/4. Greatest Grand Circuit Pacer Of 1899. Owned By Paul Wessinger.



Del Norte-2-08. Guideless Pacer Distinguished Northwest Sire.



Klamath-2-07 1/2. One Of World's Fastest Trotters Bred In 1896.

son of the century sire, Wilkes Boy, Francis J., p. 2:08, added laurels last season to his horse. Captain McCan wished to bring a trotting sire of the first rank to the Pacific Coast, so he attended the New York sale in 1911 and paid \$11,000 for The Bondaman, sire of the world's champion 3-year-old trotter, Colorado B., 2:04 1/4, and many other distinguished race horses and futurity winners. So The Bondaman is owned in Oregon. Paul Wessinger a few years ago bought Hal B., 2:04 1/4, son of Hal Dillard, 2:04 1/4. Hal B. was the greatest Grand Circuit pacer of 1899 and at the time Mr. Wessinger purchased him Hal B.'s colts were beginning to write their names in the hall of fame. In 1911 ten of the Hal B.'s took race records, stamping Hal B. as the greatest pacing sire of the year. In his list are Hal B., Jr., 2:08; Hal Haven, 2:05 1/4, and 31 others with fast records. Hal B. is now owned by S. J. Vaughn and W. A. Kendall, of Canby, Or.

Probably the largest breeding establishment in the world devoted to the standard-bred and Morgan horse is Brook Neok Ranch, Montana, owned by a Portland man, C. X. Larabee. At Brook Neok some 15,000 acres of meadow and pasture form the home of hundreds of matrons and colts, carrying the rich blood of George Wilkes, Mambrino Patchen, Robert McGregor and the historic family lines of the Black Hawk Morgans. At present Bonadine Farm, near Roseburg, Or., owned by Frank E. Alley, is probably the largest Oregon harness horse establishment. At Bonaday Farm such stallions as Sonoma Boy, 2:20, brother to Sonoma Girl, 2:04 1/4; Bonaday (S), 2:27 1/2, son of the Wilkes-Electroeer family, with a royal band of brood mares, are kept in meadowed luxury and hope rests that a future world's champion may come from Bonaday Farm.

### BLOW TO THE BACONIANS

Documents Long Thought Spurious Found to Be Genuine.  
The Bacon-Shakespeare controversy is again brought up in Ernest Law's recent book, "Some Supposed Shakespeare Forgeries." Some documents published 70 years ago by Peter Cunningham, the author of the "Story of Nell Gwyn" and treasurer of the Shakespeare Society, who in 1842 edited "Extracts From the Accounts of the Revels at Court in the Reigns of Elizabeth and James I." for 50 years have been considered spurious—forged contemporary evidence, that Shakespeare wrote the plays. Cunningham himself died a broken man, crushed by the accusation of forgery. Now says the London Graphic: "That the documents were forged has ever since been accepted by all Shakespearean scholars as an incontrovertible fact. Now, however, Mr. Law claims to have proved them to be absolutely genuine. The writing and ink were tested microscopically by Professor James Dobbin, F. R. S., chief analyst to the government, and head of the state laboratories, and they have been closely scrutinized by the greatest paleographers of the present day, by Sir George Warner, head of the manuscript department of the British Museum; by Sir Henry Maxwell-Lyte, deputy keeper of the public records; by other officers in his department, and by Dr. Wallace, the American scholar and Shakespearean discoverer. All these high authorities have accepted without qualification Mr. Law's conclusions with results that Peter Cunningham's name is now entirely cleared of the charge of forgery brought against him and the stigma affixed by the documents half a cen-

tury ago completely and once for all removed. Sir Sidney Lee, when presiding recently at the annual meeting of the Shakespeare birthplace trustees, declared that "Mr. Law has proved his point up to the hilt. He has established beyond any possibility of doubt that these suspected papers are perfectly genuine and that their accounts of the earliest recorded performances of "Othello," "Measure for Measure," "The Tempest" and "Winter's Tale" are gospel truths." "Every Shakespearean student," he proceeded to say, "is under a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Law, for not merely has he added materially to our stock of indisputable knowledge of Shakespeare's work in his own lifetime but he has relieved an old Shakespearean student of an unmerited imputation." "The fact," added Sir Sidney, "that in these documents Shakespeare is mentioned categorically as the 'poet which made the plays' should be especially interesting, if a little disappointing, to certain persons who think that there is no genuine contemporary evidence of the existence of any such author." James F. Master of the Revels at any rate, who read every play before licensing it for production and who was responsible for the mounting of the performances at court, evidently had no doubt about the matter, for it is duly recorded in his account book that the "poet who made the plays" was "Shakspere"—as his somewhat illiterate clerk spelled the immortal name. The newly revealed authenticity of these documents is indeed altogether a rather nasty blow for our "Baconians."—New York Sun.