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MURPHY BUILDING UP STRONG STABLE.

Grand Circuit's Leading Driver has Many Harness Stars for Next Season.

Tommy Murphy, the "king of light harness trainers," is making early preparation for the Grand Circuit season of 1913. At present Murphy has 50 head of trotters and pacers in his stable at Poughkeepsie, and about 15 of the lot are newcomers which will be pointed for the early closing events, with several head of classy youngsters which will be trained for the colt stakes.

The string of trainers who campaign every season down the big line is about complete, and the experts will have some weeding out to do before they get down to real hard work. During the winter season the trainers are kept busy looking over their stock and making selections for the preliminary training and race meetings, which give them a line on their racing prospects for the regular season.

Murphy's horses are always watched closely by those interested in the light harness sport, and the lot he has gathered together for next year is considered the most promising lot of horses that he has ever had in his stable. He has six trotters and three pacers, which has been added since the latter end of the Grand Circuit season, and all secured through private deals, so that very little is known about them. All of them may not get to the races, or, if they do, may be given a preliminary season to fit them for the rich events a year later.

One of the first trotters, the youngest and considered the best prospect which joined the Murphy stable, was Mediumore, that was raced as a three-year-old last year very little and took a mark of 2.12½. His record makes him eligible of many events of 1913, and if actual speed showing counts, he will make good as a four-year-old.

Lily Woodford, said to be the most expensive addition to the stable, won many races as a pacer, and took a record of 2.11¼ and, when shifted to the trot, did it in 2.15¼ right handily. During the latter part of the Grand Circuit the purchase of this mare caused a mild sensation among horsemen.

Dorothy M., by Glenwood M., that reduced her record of 2.22¼ to 2.14¼ last season, and is also a newcomer from the half-mile rings, is considered worth all she cost her present owner, and as her record allows her a wide range of early closing events, her name will be seen in entry lists down the big line.

When the Illinois bred mare Mundy C., 2.23¾, was knocked down to Murphy at the recent Old Glory sale for $4,400, it was certain that she will be her new owner's candidate for Detroit's $10,000 trotting classic. This mare was given some educational work over the Western half-mile tracks last season and joined the big liners at Lexington, where in a field of 12 starters in the 2.21 class, she finished second twice to Belle Ashland, in 2.10¾ and 2.11¼.

Dingee, 2.19¾, also a graduate from the Ohio half-mile tracks, came to the Murphy stable from Pittsburg, where he had been owned by S. A. Pickering since last spring and nursed as a candidate for the Amateur League Cup, which he would have won in Syracuse had there not been accidents.

Early last June this son of Wiggins trotted a public trail mile to wagon at the Brunot's Island track in 2.06¾, driven by his amateur owner, and if he trains right he might as well be put down as the most dangerous candidate for the slow events.

View Elder, this season's sensational 4-year-old pacer, is too well known to horsemen to need any introduction, and as she has a record of only 2.12¼, she will no doubt be one of the most prominent prospects for Detriot's $5,000 Chamber of Commerce purse, as she has shown better speed than 2.05.

Frank Bogash, Jr., another half-mile track pacer, and one of last season's sensations, is the latest addition to the Murphy stable and will no doubt be another entry with view Elder for the Chamber of Commerce, as his record makes him eligible to the pacing stakes. Jim F., is another new pacer which impressed Murphy well enough to join the select list.

Early last week Murphy received one of his old pupils, Nell Olcott, which he marked in 2.28, as a two-year-old in 1909. She has been owned and used for matinee driving by J. D. Callary, president of the Pittsburg Driving Club, for several seasons. At Lexington last fall Murphy drove her a mile in 2-09¾ so handily that she has come back now to be prepared for purse racing and a faster record.

Whether Murphy's best trotting futurity winner of this year, Princess Todd, 2.09¼, will be raced or laid over as a 4-year-old in 1913, is now undecided, yet it is certain that his best futurity material for this year will come from her owner's barn at Galt, Ont. Murphy has had half a dozen of the best youngsters from Cruickston Park, and to these were added last Tuesday, by way of Lexington, a full brother to Princess Todd and another weanling by Kentucky Todd, out of Madam Peter, by Peter the Great.

Horse men will not be a bit surprised to hear that more youngsters from Miss Wilks' farm have reached Poughkeepsie in time for training, as what Murphy accomplished with Princess Todd last season was one of the wonders of the big line considering the fact she did not get in his stable until the week of the Pittsburg meeting.

It now looks as though the man who has won over $300,000 during the past four years and topped the winning list three times will hold that distinction in 1913 also, with good training and racing luck.

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