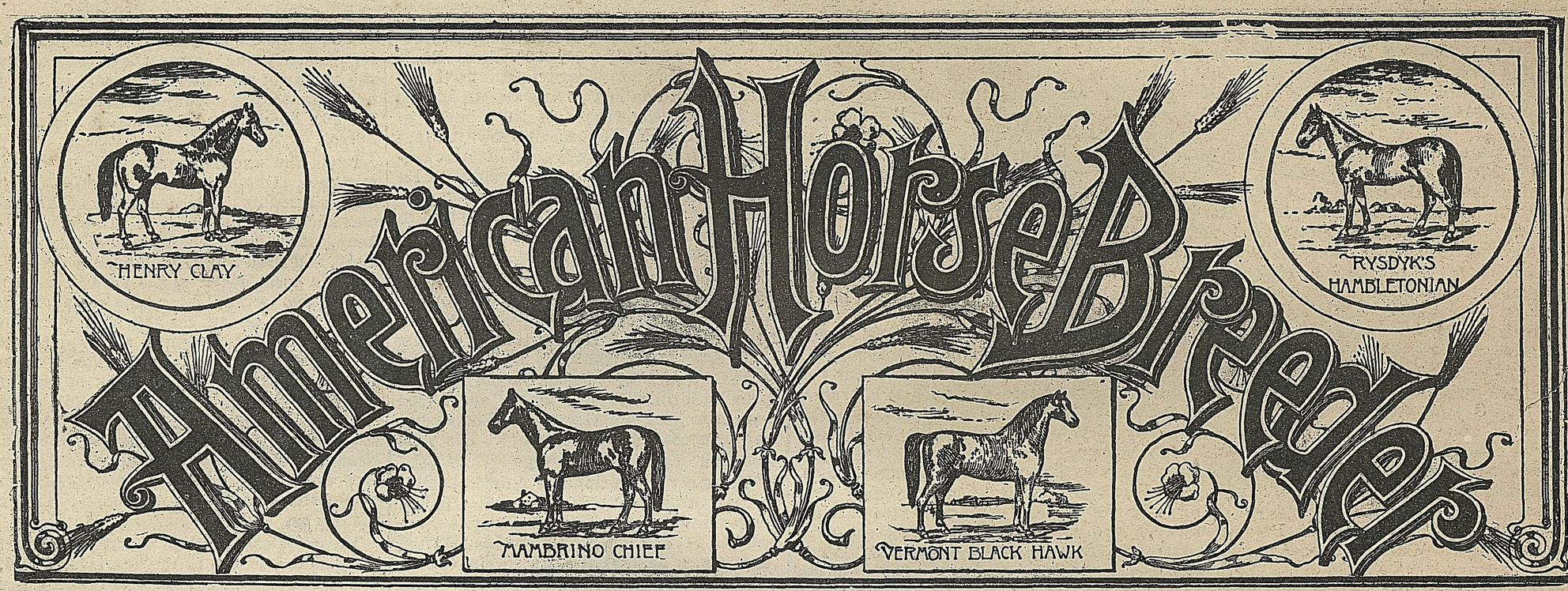

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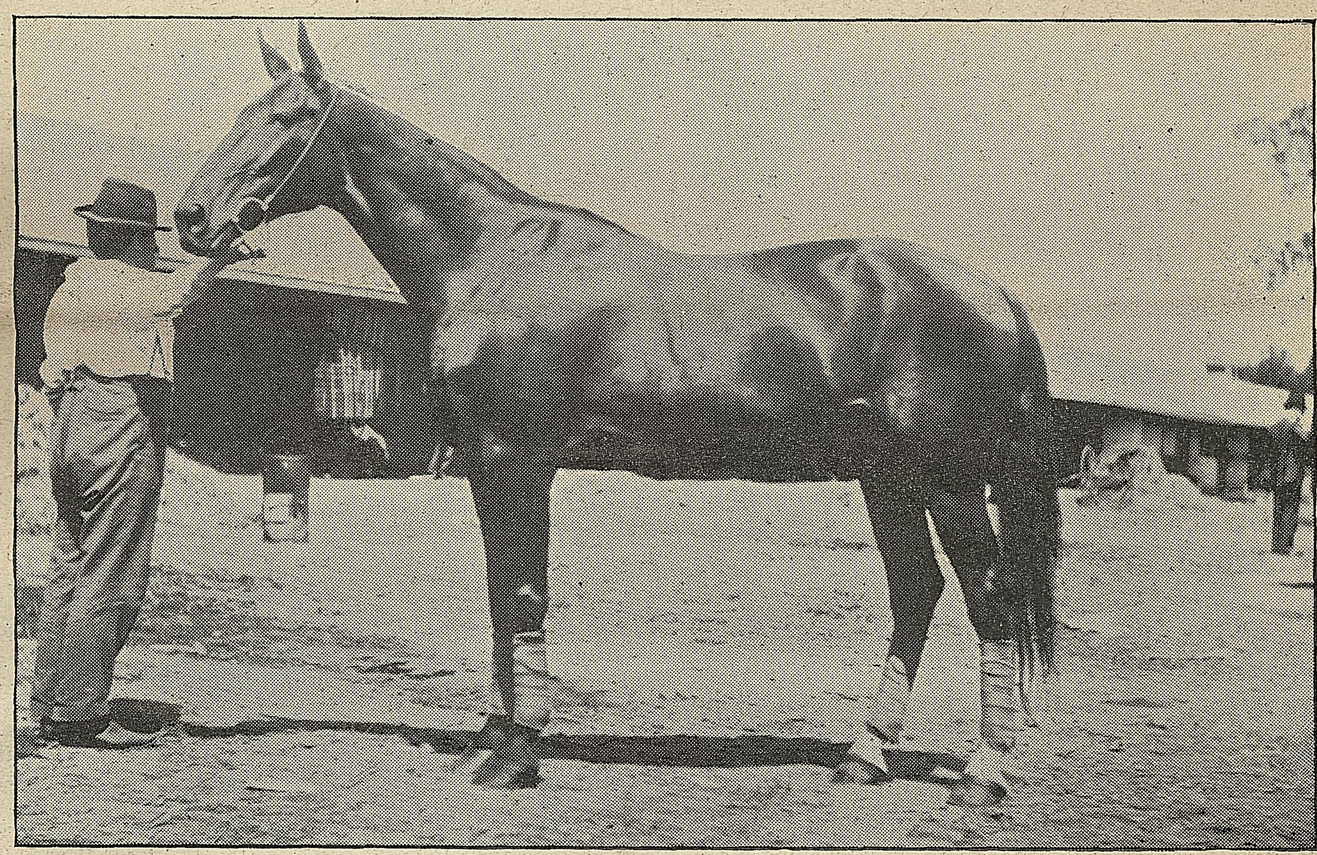

The World's Champion Trotting Gelding, Azote, 2.04 3-4, by Whips, 2.27 1-2.

A Short Bred But Successful Trotter.

It would be interesting to know just how many and which of the world's champion trotters, from Lady Suffolk to Alix, were expected to attain such honors at the time they were bred, and by those whose property they were foaled. It is suspected that that were the facts known the number would be very limited. Neither Lady Suffolk nor Flora Temple would be included in the list.

It is doubtful if Mr. Hawkins really believed that he was breeding a world beater when he sent Clara to Rysdyk's Hambletonian. He doubtless expected a very fast trotter, but it is hardly probable that he hoped for a world beater. Had he really believed that Dexter would have proven such, he would not have sold him for $400. When Alexander's Abdallah got Goldsmith Maid, he was but four years old, and his ability as a sire of trotting speed was of course unknown. Old Ab, the dam of Goldsmith Maid, was undoubtedly by old Abdallah, out of a mare which had run successfully in races. When Mr. John B. Decker sent old Ab to Alexander's Abdallah, he probably did not even dream that a record breaker would be the result. Had he ever indulged that hope, he certainly did not entertain it when he sold the small, wiry, fretful, headstrong mare as a six year old for $260.

When the late R. B. Conklin mated Nancy Awful with his obscure stallion, Conklin's Abdallah, it would seem that he had as little ground to expect a world beater as any breeder of trotting stock in the world, yet it is stated upon good authority that he always predicted Rarus would prove such, and his predictions were fulfilled. It must have been a sort of inspiration that gave Mr. Conklin the idea, for nothing that Conklin's Abdallah had ever shown in the way of speed or accomplished as a sire could furnish grounds for such belief. Something, however, led Mr. Conklin to believe that Rarus was sure to become a world's record breaker. Fortunately his circumstances were such that he could keep and develop the horse, and he was richly rewarded for doing so, as Rarus won a number of good races, lowered the world's trotting record to 2 13¼ under the skilful guidance of John Splan, and was sold for $36,000. It is probable that had Rarus not fallen into the hands of the "only Splan" his trotting career would have been less brilliant.

If St. Julien was bred for a record breaker the idea must have been abandoned when he was put to the menial service of pulling a milk wagon, instead of being placed in a first-class trainer's hands. He was better bred than Rarus, as his sire, Volunteer, was by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, yet his pedigree was not considered fashionable, as his dam was by Sayre's Harry Clay (2.29), and the Clay strain then enjoyed an unenviable reputation for imparting a disposition to give up the contest when pinched. No doubt some of the members of the Clay family may have shown the white feather, yet others, like George M. Patchen (2.23½), which carried the Clay strain, had proved as game race trotters as ever wore harness. The second dam of St. Julien was by a horse called Napoleon, whose sire, also known as Napoleon, was imported from France, and his third dam was by Cox Arabian. St. Julien reduced the world's trotting record to 2.12¾, and afterwards took a record of 2.11¼.

The gentleman from whom the late J. I. Case bought Jay-Eye-See knew that he was selling a good colt, but had he really believed him the making of a world beater,