

# The Marble Bath Story Reconsidered

By Ken Dyer

**T**HE second running of the Inter Dominion Pacing Championship in 1937 at Wayville Showgrounds, Adelaide, SA, brought forth strange new circumstances which added notoriety to the early mystique of the Series. At the inaugural Series in Perth, WA, the previous year when Logan Derby won three heats and the Final the winner was said to be Evicus which did not win a heat but scored enough points from placings and fastest times from a handicap mark to be declared the winner. This decision although in accordance with the conditions of the series was scorned by the trotting public at large and laughed at in general by the media.

In 1937 it was hoped that the bad publicity in Perth would be forgotten after a year, yet as the Adelaide Series unfolded there were disturbing rumours being put around that one horse in particular was alleged to be a New Zealand and/or a North American ring in, furthermore the horse was said to be trained by a disqualified person. The Chairman of Stewards of the day-Jack (JC) Skull- initially brushed off the rumours but as the allegations persisted and gained greater momentum and media cover he was forced to initiate an inquiry into the bona fides both as to the training and the ownership of the horse concerned albeit the final inquiry was not conducted until the Series had been concluded.

The following is the story of Marble Bath an eleven year old gelding with eight wins and two placings from only fifteen lifetime starts at registered race meetings and with a past that included two disqualifications all by the time he contested the 1937 Inter Dominion Championship in Adelaide against the best Australian horses that could be gathered together.

Foaled at Bolwarra in 1925 Marble Bath became the enigma of his time. Bolwarra was a small farming but flood prone locality nearby to Morpeth-the Hunter River port for Maitland a large inland river city north of Newcastle NSW, Marble Bath became well known in this district even as a foal with his long white stockings on his hind feet and a white front leg and there were large white markings on his forehead and nostrils. As these markings were nearly an exact replica of his sire Marble Arch there was never any doubt in the Maitland district that Marble Bath was by his reputed sire.

His sire Marble Arch P.2.15.5 was foaled in 1909 by Huon Junior from Greta (F1896) the dam of nine winners from nine foals including the great racehorses and sires Rock Huon(F1902) P.2.13.5, sire of 222 winning performers and Lulu Boy (F1907) P.2.17.4-sire of 158 winners. Marble Arch was to sire 55 performers, whilst Dexter (F1904)-27 winners, Galtimore (F1910)-9 winners, and Orphan Boy (F1917) P.2.23.7 were the other colts of Greta used at the stud. The three fillies of Greta - Maphada, Lady Mac and Greta Derby (Infelice) were winners and produced good winners. Modern era performers in this maternal family include Derby Royale Tr.2.05.4 (Winner of an Inter Dominion Trotters Grand Final), Happy Haldon P.1.56.7 (Multiple Classic winner), and Hazel Daphne P.1.56.6 etc

Bred by JP McCudden at Tomingley in western NSW, Marble Arch was sold to a patron of Peter Riddle's stable and then resold to Jack (JE) Ellis who won a few races with him before returning the stallion to Peter Riddle's stable when that trainer went to New Zealand. Whilst in



Peter Riddle's care in New Zealand, Marble Arch had two starts for a close second before returning home to his owner Jack Ellis. Winner of six races overall from fourteen starts Marble Arch was sold in 1915 to Albert W Cooper then of Singleton. (See author's note 1 for information on Albert W Cooper).

The dam of Marble Bath was called Bolwarra a mare foaled sometime within the latter years leading up to 1920. Bolwarra was by Medlow Bath from a mare by Robert Emmett-both stallions being of the paternal sire line of Childe Harold USA and was named after the locality in which she remained all her later life. Bolwarra was bred by a member of the Mead family of Maitland but which one is not known. Several of the Mead family worked on properties in the Tamworth district where Medlow Bath was standing and it is thought that one of them bred the Robert Emmett mare to Medlow Bath when located there and on returning to Maitland the resultant Medlow Bath filly came into the possession of Robert Mead a son of the elder George and Rachel Mead of Buckinghamshire, UK, who arrived in the Maitland district in 1848.

Robert Mead was born 1864 at Midlorn the ninth child of George and Rachel and spent many of his early years around Maitland before moving in midlife with his wife and family to a property on the Bolwarra Estate which was once owned by "coal baron" John Brown. (See author's note 2 for further information on John Brown).

It is not known why Robert Mead decided to breed a trotter for he had no known history of being involved in racing or breeding trotters, however, what is known is that Robert Mead, like his father before him, had a great fondness for horses all his life and had a great interest in the Horse Parades and show trotting at the annual Maitland Shows. But perhaps the greatest reason for the decision to breed a trotter was probably the fact that Albert Cooper's family had intermarried with the Mead family and Cooper looking for mares for his stallion Marble Arch could have influenced the service of Bolwarra by Marble Arch. For such simple reasons are the making of many great horses.

Medlow Bath (F1904) was reputed to be trotting bred but paced to a record of 2.16.4. Raced by the wealthy Sydney sportsman Mark Foy, (See author's note 3 for further information on Mark Foy the younger), Medlow Bath was by the famous trotter Emulator Tr.2.17.2 who himself was half trotting bred by the even more famous Osterley Tr.2.24.8 by Childe Harold USA and a full brother to Rothschild. The

dam of Medlow Bath was Juenetta (later renamed Juanita) a trotting winner but of absolutely no known pedigree-to sum up Medlow Bath could only claim 25% of his pedigree as being of traceable trotting breeding. It was probably no wonder that after his racing career Medlow Bath was consigned to the trotting wilderness in the north beyond Maitland around the Tamworth/Gunnedah region.

Medlow Bath could not have had much opportunity in this locality but did manage to sire 21 winners including Les Martin's Tarula P.2.17 \_ which became the dam of Wallawill (F1928) the winner of the NSW and Victoria Trotters Derbys and 21 races all told including many races against the pacers. During the mid 1930's therefore the even then forgotten Medlow Bath was surprisingly the sire of the dam of Wallawill arguably the best trotter in Australia at that time and was also the sire of the dam of Marble Bath who in 1936/37 was to cut a swathe through the top races in Tasmania and South Australia. As aforesaid Medlow Bath was not generally remembered in the 1930's and even today most pedigree students would find it astonishing that the virtually unknown short bred stallion occupied such a role.

The grand dam of Marble Bath was a mare by Robert Emmett (F1897) another stallion situated in the north of Newcastle area. Robert Emmett was by Era ( by Childe Harold USA) from Rose by Doncaster USA. A large number of progeny sired by Marble Arch have Robert Emmett as the sire of the dam or grand dam.

In his travels around the Maitland district and into the Bolwarra locality to visit relatives Albert Cooper became aware of the Bolwarra colt by his own sire Marble Arch and later bought him from Robert Mead. Even then the colt was wild and erratic and Cooper soon gelded the colt but as it turned out some traits were never erased.

Not named until five years old when registered on 15/12/1930, Cooper raced Marble Bath at the 1931 and 1932 Maitland Shows and also in later years. Marble Bath was also taken to the Royal Easter Show in Sydney in 1932 when six year old where he won three heats and finished second three times in the finals. On 4/5/32 Cooper gave Marble Bath his first race start at a registered meeting in an Unhopped Handicap at Newcastle which he won from 54 yards behind.

Not raced again until the gelding was seven years old, Marble Bath was unplaced at Harold Park, then ran a second placing on 23/1/33, however, the gelding won his next race on 13/2/33 over two miles. In all three starts Marble Bath was reported as galloping at the start but then made up huge amounts of ground at the finish-a trait that remained with him all his racing life even with more experienced trainers than Cooper.

As strange as it may seem Marble Bath was not raced again for thirteen months when returning to Harold Park at the age of eight years the gelding won again over two miles on 27/3/34. Racing again in June and July of the same year Marble Bath put in two inglorious displays at Harold Park and then followed with a fast finishing fourth at Victoria Park on 9/7/34.

Always a quiet driver Cooper in this latter race displeased the Stipendiary Stewards who believed he drove a negative race and disqualified him and Marble Bath for twelve months which was lifted later that year as an amnesty for a Royal Visit by the Duke of Gloucester.

Now nine year old Marble Bath returned to metropolitan racing but was still up to his old tricks of breaking at the start of his races and occasionally breaking in races. On 27/12/34 at Harold Park, Marble Bath broke when leading and then finished second to Royal Linda by a head. Despite many of the crowd believing Marble Bath had nevertheless won in a very close finish, the Stipendiary Stewards again disqualified Cooper and Marble Bath this time for six months. Cooper's defence at the appeal was that he had won the race and could do no more.

Disappointed with Marble Bath's bad behaviour at standing starts and in races, Albert Cooper decided to sell the gelding. Cooper

recognized that Marble Bath had a good future even at his advanced age particularly over the distance of two miles, however, the gelding had already cost him two disqualifications which he thought were unjustified and had given him personally a bad name.

And so at the end of his second disqualification in mid 1935 Cooper put Marble Bath on the sale market and got on with life as a studmaster and breeder who trained and drove a few horses.

Almost at the same time that he heard Marble Bath was for sale, leading trainer/driver at the Sydney metropolitan tracks Sutton McMillan had been commissioned by Jack (BJ) Keys of Perth, WA, to purchase a promising pacer to race in Perth. McMillan had once driven Marble Bath to a win for Cooper and had no hesitation in purchasing the gelding and even though the gelding was now ten year old McMillan thought there were many more wins left for Marble Bath. The gelding had only won three races in the metropolitan area over a three season racing career and was very loosely assessed but more importantly his best time was only fractionally better than 2.20.

However, Keys did not see it this way and McMillan was left to sell the gelding firstly to W Cooper (no relation to his previous owner) and then on to J Burtenshaw who promptly leased Marble Bath back to McMillan for his racing career.

McMillan did not race Marble Bath in metropolitan Sydney for another nine months and in this time put much effort into re-educating Marble Bath around the Show and country circuits of New South Wales mostly winning his races including one famous victory over Lawn Derby in the Camden Show Cup.

Starting Marble Bath at a registered race meeting in the metropolitan area for the first time in his care McMillan won first up at Harold Park on 23/3/36 as a ten year old winning easily from 24 yards in 2.19.5. The time was slow by today's standards but his win was so impressive that McMillan began to think in terms of interstate racing in some of the higher class Cups events.

It had been too late to enter for the first Inter Dominion Championships in Perth earlier in 1936, however, McMillan needing to race against better horses nominated Marble Bath for the 1936 Silver Jubilee Cup over the Easter holidays at Victoria Park in Sydney, but McMillan instead took Marble Bath to Launceston, Tasmania, where hardly known to the handicapper he was allocated the scratch mark in the high class Easter Cup which the gelding won easily from Logan Derby off 48 yards after a substantial betting plunge. Logan Derby had just returned from Perth after winning three heats and the Final of the 1936 Inter Dominion Championship and McMillan realized after this win that he had a pacer capable of matching it with the best Australian/New Zealand pacers at the very highest level albeit his pacer was ten year old.

The next years Inter Dominion Championship was to be held in Adelaide and first of all McMillan decided to try Marble Bath around the tight Wayville track in Adelaide and on 30/5/36 and 6/6/36 had two starts there for two wins in slow time. In his first win Marble Bath carried saddle number 37 and from a ten yard handicap was backed down from 10/1 to 4/7 favourite. At the start Marble Bath broke badly but won easily in the biggest betting plunge ever seen at Wayville to that time.

In this trip to Adelaide McMillan also took the pacers Dustynite and Lancelot to race and/or to sell. Lancelot was sold to the Lawson brothers who were formerly Sydney trainers and drivers but who moved to Adelaide. The Lawsons were well known to McMillan.

The betting plunges on Marble Bath which were a feature of the gelding's three latest wins whilst in McMillan's care indicates that someone behind the scenes was now in betting control of the horse but it was to be quite a while before the identity of the persons making the plunges were unmasked and even then it was said that the persons involved were entitled to bet on Marble Bath if they wanted to.

In preparing Marble Bath for the 1937 Championship in Adelaide, McMillan took Marble Bath back to Adelaide on 31/12/36 for an easy win from 20 yards behind over two miles rating 2.18.2. Returning to Sydney by rail Marble Bath was freshened up for the first night of the Championship on 27th January, 1937. On the first night of the series McMillan had also entered Marble Bath in a slow class event earlier in the evening. This was believed by many to be a ploy by McMillan of unknown consequences or was it a plan to relax Marble Bath for his start later in the evening? Nobody had any idea whether Marble Bath was just going to have an easy race until Marble Bath was backed sensationally to win which he did over thirteen furlongs in a rate of 2.16.6.

In the first heat of the Championships later that night Marble Bath had obviously not been affected by his earlier race as he won the ten furlong heat in 2.15.8 and again was heavily backed. In the second heat three nights later Marble Bath reared at the start and then broke interfering with several other starters ruining their chances and his own in a twelve furlong event won by Wrinkle in a 2.11.8 rate.

In the third series of heats on 3rd February Marble Bath again lost ground at the start but recovered to easily win over two miles in a rate of 2.17. After this effort Marble Bath became one of the favored horses to win the Grand Final on 6th February but was sensationally scratched from the Grand Final on the 4th February.

The scratching unleashed a new flood of rumour and innuendo from the media, other participants, and the public at large.

It was variously said that the horse which won as Marble Bath was a ring in from New Zealand or elsewhere and had been destroyed and burnt in the Adelaide Hills; it was also said the horse had been trained by a disqualified person in the absence of McMillan who returned to Sydney after each run. Many of the rumours were put about by disgruntled competitors.

The Chairman of Stewards Jack (JC) Skull, however, would not conduct any inquiries during the course of the Championship and when Marble Bath was scratched from the Final he saw no reason to take any action until after the Grand Final other than to withhold all prizemoney won by Marble Bath. In the event the Grand Final was won in a boilover by Dan's Son a pacer not favoured to win in a rate of 2.13.8 over 12 furlongs.

A preliminary inquiry after the scratching of Marble Bath from the Series and before the Grand Final revealed the allegations mentioned earlier but after all the innuendo only one person came forward to give evidence. The Stewards let it be known that they were looking for a person that was said to be training Marble Bath during McMillan's absence but strangely never revealed his name in public. The inquiry was adjourned to 17th February to give officials time to locate the mysterious trainer and to inquire further about some of the lesser allegations. In the meantime Sutton McMillan was requested to stay in Adelaide with the pacer Marble Bath until the allegations and the inquiry were finalized. However, Mr Skull did say that the identity of Marble Bath was not in question as the gelding was a well known and identified horse from his earliest days and had now raced and won in three States.

The inquiry resumed on 17th February and the Adelaide Advertiser correspondent attended and reported the open inquiry as follows on the 19th February:-

#### **"McMillan given benefit of grave doubt."**

At the resumption of the inquiry Mr H Hambley a participant in the Series said in answer to a question by Mr Skull said that it was correct that if Marble Bath had won and Hambley had run second

he (Hambley) would have protested. Hambley said that his grounds were he had been told that a (disqualified) man named Lawson had been working the horse and he was going to take a chance. Hambley said furthermore that he had never seen Lawson working the horse. The Chairman of Stewards Mr JC Skull stated after the inquiry was concluded that Miss Patricia East gave evidence that was not true and her trainers licence was cancelled and that prizemoney won by Marble Bath during the Championship and previously withheld had now been handed to McMillan.

However, Mr Skull said "it was one of the worst cases I have dealt with. The persistent rumours did not do the game any good. There is a grave doubt as to who handled the horse and the Stewards have decided to give you (McMillan) the benefit of that doubt. At the same time they think you should have used a little more judgement and seen the horse was properly looked after." (See author's note 4 for more information on Mr H Hambley)

And so a chastened McMillan and Marble Bath returned to Sydney to get on with life and training and racing in NSW. After this affair McMillan only very rarely raced at interstate meetings but then he hardly had to. McMillan became the leading trainer/driver in NSW for seven years and the runner up in five years over the next fifteen years.

It was never revealed what Patricia East had said in evidence that was so untrue that her licence had to be cancelled and nobody ever said at Jack Skull's inquiries which disqualified member of the Lawson family it was that was alleged to have trained Marble Bath. Nor was any explanation ever given in public until many years later as to why Marble Bath was scratched from the Grand Final of the Championship. However, in hindsight we can perhaps answer some of these questions.

### **EPILOGUE**

In an interview published 3rd July 1946 in "Harness & Hopples" (the forerunner to Trotguide) Sutton McMillan revealed to the then Editor, the late Clarrie Bezar, that Marble Bath had been scratched because so much money had been won by betting plunges over the preceding six months that the first prizemoney (1,000 pounds) for the Grand Final of the Inter Dominion Championship by comparison was not deemed sufficient for the penalty Marble Bath would have to take for winning it. By way of explanation McMillan fully expected

that Marble Bath would have had to run between 2.12 and 2.14 to win. Given that Marble Bath was only time assessed at 2.18 the gelding would have to take anywhere from 4 to 6 seconds penalty whereas it was thought that the gelding was quite capable of winning another six races at a high level. It was implied that the betting was the motive driving the gelding's future.

The narrative went on to say that "the subsequent inquiry cleared Sutton McMillan" which is at variance with the official version ie. that McMillan was given the benefit of a grave doubt.

As for a disqualified person training Marble Bath in Adelaide whilst McMillan was absent in Sydney, McMillan put forward the claim that Marble Bath was sent by rail back to Sydney after each race. However, whilst the Stewards eventually accepted McMillan's story they had their own grave doubts for the reason that the Heats were raced on 27th & 30th January followed by the 3rd Heat on 3rd February. With only three days between between the 1st and 2nd Heats and four days between the 3rd and 4th Heats it is almost unbelievable that McMillan would put Marble Bath through this arduous travelling imposition from Adelaide to Sydney and return twice in this short period.

It is no wonder the Stewards had trouble in accepting McMillan's version of the training of Marble Bath in Adelaide.

So if Marble Bath did remain in Adelaide instead of returning to Sydney who did train and stable the gelding for his three starts over seven days in Adelaide? Evidence was taken from Mr H Hambley a SA owner to the extent that he had heard that a disqualified person named Lawson was handling Marble Bath but this is hearsay and the Stewards would be bound to take no notice of this evidence.

Miss Patricia East of Adelaide was said by the Stewards to have given untrue evidence and had her licence cancelled for her offence but as previously said nobody to this present day knows a valid reason for this action.

Perhaps the allegations of Mr Hambley hinge on events that transpired when McMillan took Marble Bath to Adelaide the previous July 1936. Accompanying Marble Bath were the pacers Dustynite and Lancelot the latter of which was sold to Cedric Lawson who as mentioned earlier was then living in Adelaide after having moved from Sydney. On 7th November 1936, Lancelot after a string of poor performances easily won the Hallet Handicap. The Adelaide Advertiser said the win was "a striking improvement on his previous displays". In an adjourned inquiry the Chairman of Stewards (Jack Skull) thought so too and disqualified Cedric Lawson, Lancelot and trainer/driver P Roots all for two years. On appeal Lawson's disqualification was lifted but the disqualification remained on the horse and driver.

So whilst the connection between McMillan and the Lawson family was well known and proven there is no hard evidence that any disqualified member of the Lawson family trained Marble Bath that is to say if there was a disqualified family member-but it could provide the evidence that at least one non-disqualified member of the Lawson family was in a position to have tended Marble Bath at this time. It may well have been that Lawson's disqualified driver P Roots trained or handled Marble Bath during McMillan's absences in Sydney. Roots was an experienced horseman and started driving winners in 1928 in the same area in the region of Penrith nearby to the Lawson family and travelled to Adelaide with Cedric Lawson when the Lawson's moved to Adelaide in 1936. After his disqualification term expired Roots is listed as the winning driver of Pat's Pick, Red Peter, Paddy Brick and Pompey at Victoria Park, Harold Park and Londonderry. His last win was on the good mare Kitty Foyle at Harold Park in August 1945.

The Lawson's were well known as good horsemen and also as big punters and it is surmised that they were the power behind the huge betting plunges on Marble Bath. That this may be true as well as the allegation that a person named Lawson was seen training Marble Bath is supported by the following facts.

On the return of Marble Bath and McMillan to Sydney, McMillan reported that Marble Bath had gone sore from the effects of racing on the hard Wayville track and had been put out for a spell.

On return to the racetrack a year later Marble Bath was entered for the 1938 Inter Championships in Christchurch, NZ., and it comes as no surprise to learn that Marble Bath is listed in the name of Cedric Lawson as owner but he may well have been the lessee and H Lawson as trainer but the gelding was later scratched. During the whole of 1938 Marble Bath was nominated and scratched from various events in Melbourne and Launceston but was only finally started and finished unplaced in the 1939 Snowtown Cup on 7/2/39 nearly two years to the day after his previous start in the 1937 Inter Dominion Championships.

Still in the name of Cedric Lawson, Marble Bath was started in the SA Trotting Cup on the 15/2/39. The Adelaide Advertiser reported "Marble Bath was restless and in a lather. (The gelding) Broke badly when the barriers were released and caused severe interference directly and indirectly to all except three runners" of the seventeen starters.

After this effort Marble Bath was taken to Melbourne for two unplaced starts from long handicap marks for unplaced efforts and then on to Launceston for the Easter Carnival where the gelding dead heated for first in the 1939 Easter Plate over two miles. This was the last winning effort of Marble Bath.

Returning to Melbourne Marble Bath had a further nine starts at Ascot and was retired after his unplaced start at Warragul.

Marble Bath was evidently returned to Sydney for his retirement as in 1944 it was reported the gelding had died on the property of Jim (JR) Reeves at Badgery's Creek, NSW. Jim Reeves at this time was a patron of trainer Sutton McMillan.

It must be said that the reasons given for the 1937 scratching from the Inter Dominion Championship did not live up to the eventual outcome as recounted above and the excuse given may have been a contrivance concocted in later years to account for the scratching. Possibly there was some other reason of which Marble Bath's handlers were fearful may have been disclosed.

Whatever, all the players in Marble Bath's racing career are long dead and in any event nothing more can be found that would negate any of the facts outlined in this article.

### **THE PLAYERS**

**AUTHORS NOTE 1. ALBERT (AW) COOPER.** Born 1884 at Greta not too far from the locality of Bolwarra in the coalfields district of Maitland, NSW, Albert Cooper could have been expected to be a coalminer, instead he grew up with an interest in horses. It is not known how he became interested in trotters, however, he is first noticed driving Playboy a winner at the 1910 Silver Jubilee Show at Maitland, and later in other trotting events in the district.

Cooper became well known as an excellent light weight rider and driver around the Maitland area which included Cessnock, Singleton and Newcastle winning many races. Purchasing Marble Arch in 1915 from Jack Ellis he raced the stallion for two years around the Newcastle/Maitland areas interspersing his racing activities with that of stud duties. Marble Arch was an expensive purchase for Cooper who was only thirty one years of age at the time but he never had cause to regret the purchase.

After a number of years Marble Arch became known as the sire of tough metropolitan class pacers including the notable Marble Ridge (F1923) P.2.11 winner of 52 races most of which were at Harold Park and Victoria Park.

In 1928 or 1929 Cooper purchased Marble Bath from a local farmer Robert Mead the purchase of which caused him much pain though disqualifications which he claimed, much later to the writer of this article, were completely unjustified.

Based at Singleton to the north of Maitland in the early half of his career, Cooper moved to Heatherdene a property nearer Maitland and started breeding with his collection of Marble Arch mares. After the death of Marble Arch, Cooper did not stand other stallions, however, he sent his mares out to the best stallions of those times and bred and raced among others the metropolitan winners Coltrav a successful sire, Robert's Charm-a Harold Park daytime winner and the Harold Park night trotting winner Garriwill.



Sutton McMillan



J.C. Skull

In the late 1930's Albert Cooper raced Rock Globe a successful pacer at Harold Park and Victoria Park. In later years Cooper moved to an easier life in the north shore leafy suburbs of Sydney and it was from there he purchased a New Zealand bred Dillon Hall USA colt which he called Bruce Hall NZ (F1946) P.2.06.2. Winning an Inter Dominion Championship Consolation Bruce Hall also won the prestigious Spring Cup in the same year when trained by HS Mazoudier. Transferred to Percy (PJ) Hall, Bruce Hall won a further three races including two Flying Miles. In an exhibition race at Bankstown Raceway Bruce Hall recorded 2.01.6 over a moving start mile. For the season 1952/53 AW Cooper is listed as the Leading Owner at Harold Park mainly through the efforts of Bruce Hall NZ.

Having one last fling at ownership at a late age, Cooper purchased another New Zealand bred colt called Danny Hanover NZ (F1955) P.2.08.8 winner of ten races at Harold Park for trainer Percy Hall. Both Bruce Hall NZ and Danny Hanover NZ were successful sires the former siring 105 individual winners whilst the latter sired 57 pacers and was the sire of the dams of 91 including the high class Steel Jaw P.1.58.1.

**AUTHORS NOTE 2. JOHN BROWN.** John Brown emigrated from Scotland in 1842 after his union involvement led him to being blacklisted by employers. He found employment in the mills around Newcastle, NSW, however, as his sons James and Alexander matured he decided it was necessary to place them in a business which would provide them with ongoing support.

Before long the elder Brown and his two sons were engaged in carrying blackmarket coal before the law intervened. In the 1860's the Browns purchased a mine at Minmi and with some partners built a railway line to carry their coal to ports around Newcastle. This was the start of the fortunes of John Brown and his sons and after a time John Brown became known as the "coal baron". With his new found wealth he purchased much land around the Hunter River including the Bolwarra Estate.

John Brown looms large in the before the turn of the century history of thoroughbred breeding in NSW particularly in the Newcastle area, however, his stable of thoroughbreds raced mainly in the Sydney metropolitan area and he decided to build his own stables in Bowral Street, Kensington, nearby to Randwick Racecourse. Brown engaged Frank Marsden to train his horses and with whom after a time he quarrelled which resulted in Marsden purchasing the property and becoming a well known and successful trainer on his own account.

After the death of Frank Marsden his stables were leased to Peter Riddle and Bill Henderson. On the death of Peter Riddle, a young thoroughbred trainer Tommy (TJ) Smith purchased the property which he much later called Tulloch Lodge now in the control of his daughter Gai Waterhouse.

John Brown strangely enough also dabbled in ownership of trotters at one time prior to the turn of the century owning for a time the imported sires Commercial USA and Roscoe USA which was also sometimes known as John Brown. Little remains in the stud book records of Roscoe USA, however, one his daughters produced Dorrie (Tierney's) a mare that produced five metropolitan winners and a daughter that produced Determined Boy (F1950)P.2.08.6 winner of nine races at Harold Park for Percy Hall in the 1957/58 season. Another mare Lovely Lawn dam of fifteen winners from eighteen foals has Roscoe USA in her maternal bloodlines. Commercial USA appears as the sire of the dam of Queen Commerce a foundation mare that is responsible for Jet Lag N P.1.50.

**AUTHORS NOTE 3. MARK FOY the younger.** Born in Bendigo, Victoria in 1865 Mark Foy the younger was the third son of Mark Foy the elder (1830-1884) who was born in King's County, Ireland. The father of Mark Foy the elder was Marc Foy a French émigré and flourmiller who found it expedient to flee from France to Ireland for political reasons. Mark Foy the elder became a draper in Dublin and

then emigrated to Victoria later bringing his wife and family which included Francis Foy (B1856) to the goldfields.

In the 1860's Mark Foy the elder established a number of successful businesses on the goldfields before going back to Melbourne in 1870 where he set up shop in Smith Street, Collingwood by purchasing three adjoining shops which quickly expanded to six. In 1871 Foy purchased 324 acres of land in two lots at Carrum Swamp. In 1882 he settled the business on his son Francis and brought in a partner William Gibson, thereafter the business became known as Foy and Gibson's a well known Melbourne landmark and emporium. The elder Foy died in San Francisco shortly afterwards in 1884.

In 1885 Francis and Mark Foy the younger sold their interests in Foy and Gibson's and moved to Sydney. Setting up shop in Oxford Street they called the business Mark Foy's Ltd in memory of their late father. Prospering, the brothers established in 1909 a huge new store opposite Hyde Park which became the fashion center of Sydney with a large piazza fronting the store.

Francis Foy became a thoroughbred owner and breeder his best racehorse being Voyou which ran second in the 1899 Melbourne Cup. He also owned a farm at Parkes where he stood among other stallions the imported His Reverence which in a cross code breeding venture sired Minnie a foundation mare in the trotting stud books. Francis Foy died at Goulburn, NSW, in 1918.

Mark Foy the younger for his part was a keen sportsman and as a young man won several medals for rifle shooting in USA. In 1890 he founded the Sydney Flying Squadron on Sydney Harbour for 18 footers-his name is perpetuated in this class of harbour racing with a start known as the Mark Foy Start.

In the early 1900's Mark Foy on his own account purchased a hotel in the Blue Mountains at Medlow Bath near Katoomba on the ramparts of the Megalong Valley. Pouring a fortune into remodelling and expanding the hotel which he now called the Hydro Majestic it opened in 1904 with a wide range of facilities and amusements and very quickly it became the most fashionable resort in Australia. After a century the Hydro Majestic still sits in solitary splendour looking out over the valley but with a National Trust tag attached to it. The Hydro Majestic is topped with a huge dome which Foy imported from Chicago when on one of his travels he saw a casino being pulled down and decided the dome would do to top his new Hotel.

In 1904 Mark Foy travelled down to Melbourne to the dispersal sale of Joseph Welsby then of Carrum. It is not known what connection Foy had with Welsby, however, the fact that his father Mark the elder owned land at Carrum Swamp and Welsby was also located at Carrum indicates some relationship or acquaintanship. At the sale the very promising Emulator, a trotter, was sold for a great sum to JB Zander whilst Mark Foy bought the mares Juanetta and Estimate both with filly foals at foot and in foal to Emulator.

Foy renamed Juanetta as Juanita who produced later in 1904 a colt foal which he called Medlow Bath after his resort in the Blue Mountains. Foy expected Medlow Bath to trot but the colt was always a pacer. Estimate for her part produced the mare Medlow Maid. Both Medlow Bath and Medlow Maid were good winners on Sydney racetracks and Foy was extremely proud of his two horses frequenting Harold Park and Victoria Park to see them race.

As aforesaid in this article Medlow Bath was sold to the northern regions of NSW for stud duties whilst Medlow Maid was sold to Percy Miller's Fairfield Stud at Windsor, NSW, where she produced some fillies that have bred on in all States.

Mark Foy the younger died in 1950. In 1975 his grand daughter Juanita Nielsen a journalist investigating criminal activities and bribery around the King's Cross area of Sydney mysteriously disappeared. Her body has never been found.

**NEXT ISSUE; JACK SKULL: VELVET GLOVE-IRON FIST**

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