



By Ken Dyer

The Riddle Dynasty

In the first half of the 20th century there was no other family that could quite match Walter Riddle and his five sons for their natural talent for horsemanship-not then and certainly not now.

The patriarch of the Riddle family Walter Hogg Riddle was born in Gisborne, Victoria, in the year 1857. His father was Henry (aka Harry) Riddle- his mother being Mary Hogg and both were of UK immigrant stock marrying at Geelong in 1853. Marion Riddle born 1856 also at Gisborne was the only other sibling.

Always tall as a youth Walter Riddle grew to well over six feet and shortly before his death in 1933 he weighed in at 19 _ stone (around 130 pounds), however, in his younger and slimmer days Walter had a natural talent for athletics and boxing.

Gravitating to the goldfields of Victoria around Ballarat, Riddle tried his luck as a miner and met up with Peter Smeaton and his family then living near Creswick just north of Ballarat where mountains of gold had been found from 1851. Peter Smeaton his wife Helen and their girls Margaret (b1848) and Ann (b1853) had come to Melbourne from near Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1855 arriving one day before the announcement of a big gold strike at Creswick.

Heading to Creswick hitherto a small farming community, Peter Smeaton became a hopeful miner and must have been moderately successful for he eventually became a landowner and farmer at Creswick when the gold petered out. Seven more children were born at the Smeaton home including Catherine Maria born 1861. Altogether the Smeatons had five girls out of twelve live children.

By the time Walter Riddle came to Creswick at age 23 in 1880, Ann Smeaton born 1853 had already married John Swindle, also of UK parentage, in 1876 and both had moved away from the family home to Mooroopna and then on to North Eastern Victoria. (See author's note 4 for John Swindle's movements and involvement in trotting)

In 1881 Walter Riddle aged 25 married Catherine Maria Smeaton 20 years of age at Creswick and the pair moved on to North Eastern Victoria somewhat in the footsteps of Walter Riddle's brother in law John Swindle and his wife Anne.

Walter and Catherine's movements in North Eastern Victoria can be traced by the birth registrations of their children in the Numurkah district viz; Helen b 1881, David b1883, and Peter b1884 at Kaarimba; Walter Robert b1886 at Katamatite; Albert W b 1887 at Waia; and Henry b1889 at Numurkah. The only other live child was Ada E born 1893 at Cowra, NSW.

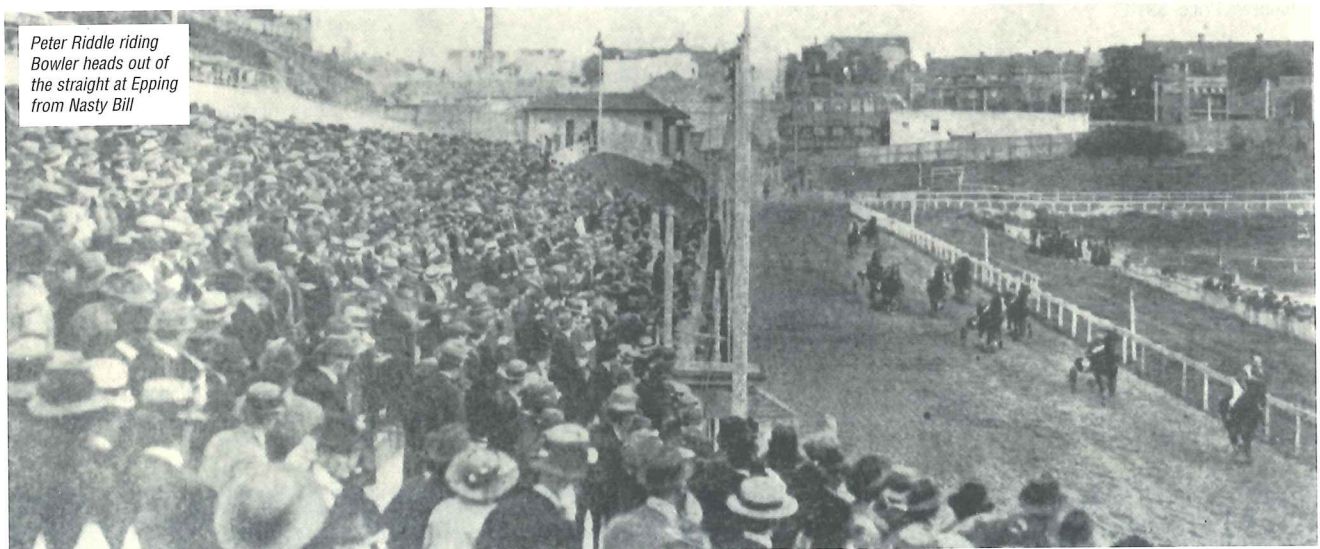


Walter Riddle and Piccaninny

During their 1880's sojourn in the Numurkah area Walter share cropped wheat and grazed sheep and cattle but when contacted by his brother in law John Swindle then farming near Cowra in NSW, with a proposal to take over his property called "Rumour" at Mount York on one of two roads leading from Cowra to Canowindra. Walter and Catherine decided to overland a move to Cowra with their six children and so in 1890 the Riddles arrived in Cowra to farmland that was good enough for cropping and grazing. The Riddles had three children born at Cowra but only one survived - Ada E Riddle born 1893.

Following the lead of his brother in law, John Swindle, who had trained, driven and raced the trotter Torpedo at Kaarimba in Victoria and at Forbes in NSW in the 1890's and who would also in the following years purchase Don Cleve, Claredo and Princess from the Woodham family, Riddle purchased for 100 guineas at the 1897 Singleton Show the pacer Piccaninny an impressive black stallion foaled 1886 by imported Startle USA.

Piccaninny's metropolitan racing career had finished earlier in 1897 at eleven years of age after wins at the Sydney Driving Park, and at Canterbury, Lillie Bridge and Brighton but Riddle had ideas of using the stallion as a stud horse around the Cowra district. To promote Piccaninny as a sire Riddle raced the stallion around the Cowra, Canowindra, Bathurst and Orange Shows driving Piccaninny himself most times through to 1905.



Peter Riddle riding Bowler heads out of the straight at Epping from Nasty Bill



The handsome black stallion impressed the local farmers around the Cowra/Canowindra area and although the local mares sent to Piccaninny were mainly of the half bred or hack variety his first produce in 1898 were so very promising that by the early years of the new century the Western Districts abounded with his stock.

During this time Riddle became associated with leading Sydney driver Wallie Martin who shared the driving of Piccaninny and some of his produce with Riddle at least until Riddle's sons were good enough to drive at race meetings.

Overall, Piccaninny sired 46 individual winning pacers in the years when trotting was only just beginning in those areas and race meetings few. His best performers were Pickwick P.2:20, Piccaninny Junior P.2:20, Epic P.2:22, Golden Pic P.2:14, Aborigine P.2:21.5, Domino P.2:26.6 all of whom won in the metropolitan area and were successful sires. Most of his stock were pacers and his mares were much in demand for breeding and are still to be found in the far distant recesses of today's pedigrees. Pickwick and Golden Pic were both owned by Walter Riddle and the two gave the Riddles many splendid wins in the metropolitan area of Sydney.

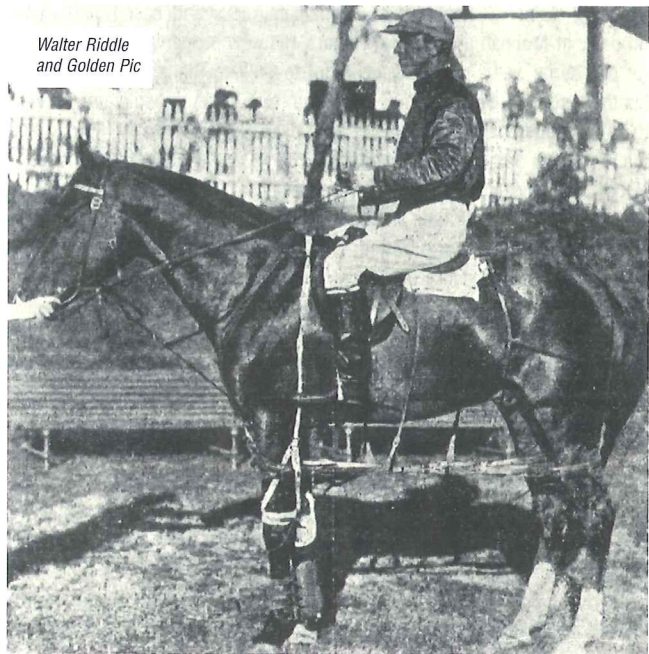
But if Walter Riddle's farming, breeding and racing activities were becoming more successful his home life was breaking up. With five boys and two girls to look after in the somewhat primitive conditions of farmlife in those days, his wife Catherine either before or after the death of the youngest boy at two years of age in 1896 decided she wanted more out of life and departed the family home at Mount York later that same year leaving Walter to rear the children and manage the farm-at this stage the eldest boys were in their middle teens. Walter and Catherine had nine children together of whom seven lived.

However, in 1897 as the records of the NSW Supreme Court show, Walter and Catherine were divorced at Cowra and Catherine moved into a housekeepers position at the Twigg families large farm at Broula not far from Cowra but on a different road leading from Cowra to Canowindra. The Cowra Free Press of 12/4/1900 reports Catherine's tragic end-

"Death at the Hospital: At about 3.00 am on Friday Mrs Riddle sister of Mrs John Swindle of Canowindra died at the local hospital where she had been under treatment for about a week for dropsy and disease of the heart of long standing. The remains were conveyed to Canowindra for interment. Up to within a short time prior to her death the deceased had filled the position of housekeeper of Messrs Twigg Bros at Mayfield Park, Broula, by whom she was very highly respected. She was a native of Victoria and had been resident of this district for about 12 years"

[When she died Catherine Maria Riddle (nee Smeaton) was 38 years of age and was buried at the Canowindra General Cemetery by her sister Anne Swindle(nee Smeaton)See also Author's note 4 on John Swindle.]

Before Catherine's death Walter Riddle had remarried Ada Badham in Sydney in 1899 and in another piece of related family news George Swindle son of Walter Riddle's brother in law John Swindle was married in 1902 to Florence Woodham (b1883) a granddaughter of the well known sportsman William Richard Woodham (b1850).



Walter Riddle and Golden Pic

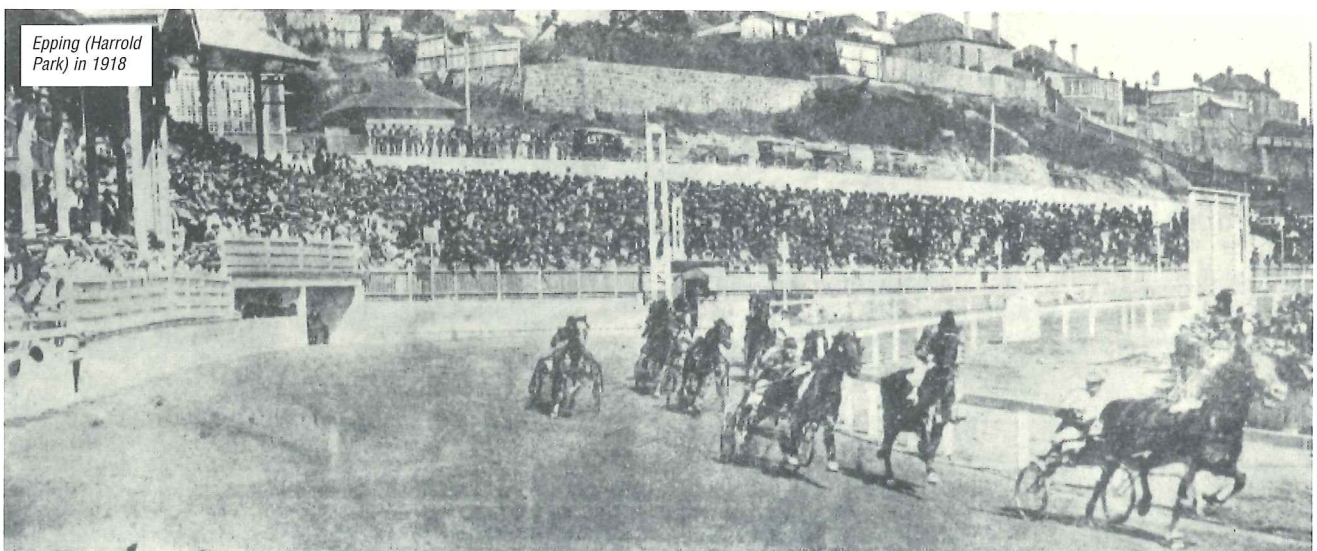
And so the Riddles, Swindles and the Woodham families became related and even if the connection was somewhat distant all the families had the same interests in common and the fusion of those interests created factors which became the reasons for the families to interact with each other in their future lives.

Walter Riddle's boys were now growing to maturity and in the days prior to motorisation he saw to it that each of the sons was well tutored in breaking in, riding or driving the family bred horses (See author's notes 1-3 for information relating to Peter, David and Bert Riddle).

Around the middle of the 1900-1910 decade Walter Riddle leased out his Mount York property at Cowra and moved to Granville then an outer suburb of Sydney where large acreages were still available. Building a large dominant residence and a training track four furlongs in circumference the farm was called "Normanhurst" where he stood Piccaninny in his aging years and then Pickwick and Golden Pic. His sons Peter and Bert then in their early twenties were located also at "Normanhurst" and it was this location that was their springboard to their future lives and successes.

1912 saw the death and burial of Piccaninny at "Normanhurst". Walter Riddle thought so much of Piccaninny that he arranged for a tombstone to be erected encribed as follows "Erected by W Riddle in memory of the trotting stallion Piccaninny. Died November 9th, 1912. Aged 27 years."

In 1913 Walter Riddle sold up his surplus horses at Granville in preparation for a move to Hobart, Tasmania. Retaining ownership of "Normanhurst" when he moved to Hobart he took many of his horses



Epping (Harold Park) in 1918

including Golden Pic to race at Tasmanian tracks and based at his new property at Moonah a suburb of Hobart. His new property had advantages for him as he was a next-door neighbor to William Richard Woodham and his three sons originally from Sydney and Riddle was now distantly related to them. Woodham had travelled from Sydney to Melbourne in 1905 to race the Woodham trained trotters there but in 1906 the Woodhams moved on to Hobart. Initially the Woodham boys drove the Riddle stable of horses in Tasmania until David Riddle arrived in Hobart some years later to take care of his fathers business and trotting interests.

How much the influence the Woodhams had over Walter Riddle's move to Hobart from Sydney is not known but the move would have seemed attractive when land became available next door to the Woodhams and the land had enough room for Riddle to construct a four furlong training track. Riddle became involved in the affairs of the Tasmanian Owners and Trainers Association continuing from his relationship with a similar organization in Sydney.

Wallie Martin late of Sydney and a former driver for Riddle had also moved to Hobart in 1913 and was employed in the Woodham stable so that Riddle felt very comfortable in his new surroundings among old friends.

At all events time moved on and as Riddle became older he began taking frequent trips back to NSW to visit "Normanhurst" and his Mount York property at Cowra Taking one last trip to Sydney in 1933 Walter Riddle passed away at "Almonte", Mascot at seventy five years of age and was buried at Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney. His wife Ada died in 1944 at Drummoyne, Sydney.

Goldminer, athlete, boxer, wheatfarmer, grazier, studmaster, breeder, owner, trainer/driver, Walter Riddle was all of those making a success of each of his ventures and putting his boys on a secure path in life. I suspect that in his younger days he was an unforgiving hard man but as time mellowed him he was described as a kindly old chap.

James Walford a leading Sydney journalist knew Riddle well and was moved to write the first paragraph hereunder whilst a Hobart journalist wrote the second paragraph.

JS Walford 10/5/33-"By the death of Walter Riddle on Tuesday there passed away another of the few remaining links between the past and present generations of trotting breeders and horsemen. Walter Riddle first came into the trotting limelight as the owner of the stallion Piccaninny. "Old Pic" had passed through many hands before reaching Mr Riddle without making his mark either as racehorse or stallion. In Mr Riddle's hands Piccaninny won innumerable races and show ribbons and at the stud sired many winners his two best being Pickwick and Golden Pic. Walter is the only

man (at that time) to have erected a tombstone over the grave of a faithful servant at "Normanhurst", Granville, 14 miles from Sydney. And now they are putting a tombstone over Walter. It happens to us all".

Tas Williams 24/5/33. "The news of the death of Walter Riddle in Sydney was received with regret at Hobart. The old chap had a smile for all and was renowned for his kindness of heart. Many a horse he gave away to a battler to help him earn an honest crust. The old chap was kindness personified".

CHILDREN OF WALTER AND CATHERINE RIDDLE

- 1881 HELEN m Arthur A Jones at Cargo 1906
- 1883 DAVID m Ruby M O'Neile at Cowra 1907
- 1884 PETER m Linda M Casey at Sydney 1922
- 1886 WALTER R m Margaret L Robertson at Cowra 1911
- 1887 ALBERT W m Nellie A McDeed at Waverley 1915
- 1888 HENRY
- 1893 ADA E m Richard Trevillian at Glebe 1916

AUTHOR'S NOTE 1. PETER RIDDLE

Of the five Riddle Brothers, Peter is the one that is most publicly revered and remembered not only as a genuine horseman in company with his brothers but as a great and successful trainer/driver in harness racing in Australia and in New Zealand. He was also one of the few in harness racing that made a successful transfer to the thoroughbred industry as did also his younger brother Albert Riddle (See authors note 2).

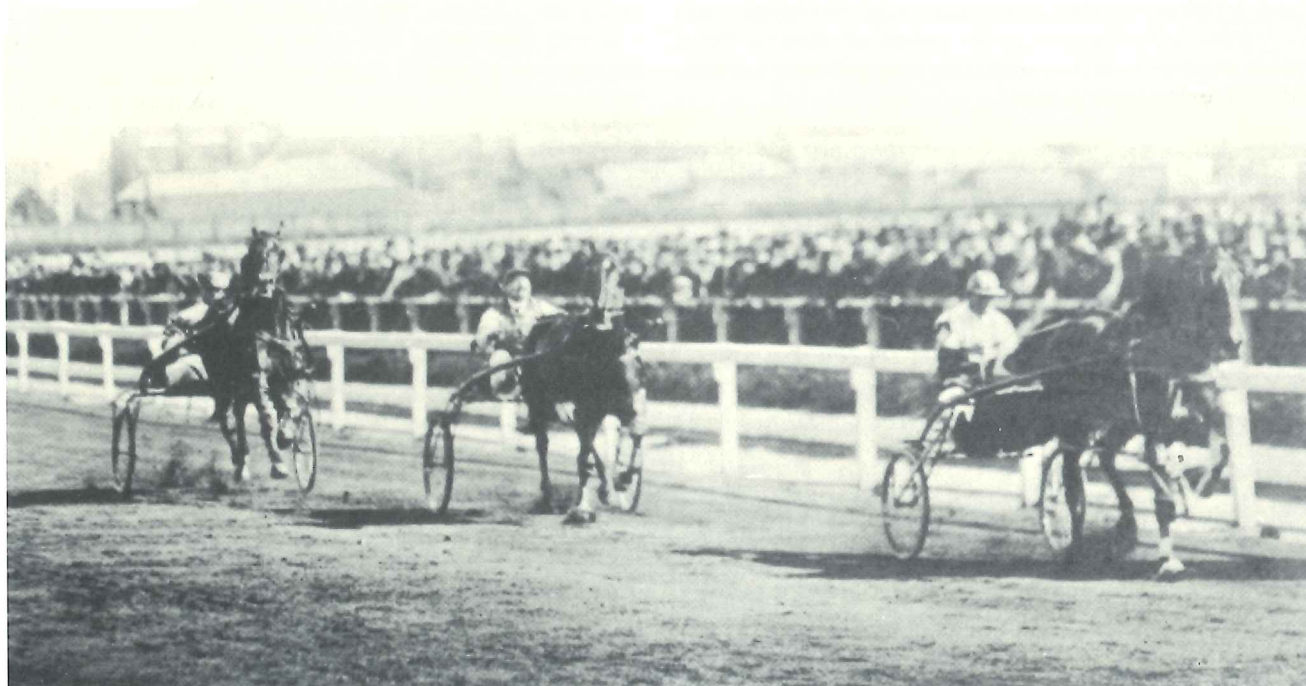
Peter Riddle died suddenly in 1947 on the verge of attaining more successes in racing with his champion galloper Shannon a great miler in Australia and a world record holder in North America when sold there to race after the death of Riddle.

Born at Kaarimba in 1884 in north eastern Victoria, Peter Riddle travelled at age six with his family to Cowra in mid western New South Wales in 1890 when the family took up a large property at Mount York on the Cowra/Canowindra Road. The property had previously been owned by his fathers brother in law John Swindle and his wife Ann. Swindle had a big interest in horses and had successfully raced the trotter Torpedo in Victoria and New South Wales and had stood the same horse at the Mount York stud in the Cowra district.

His father ensured that all the boys were able to tend to the farms horses and to ride and drive although it could be said that his elder brother David was the most precocious (See David Riddle authors note 3).

Both Peter (then 21 years of age) and David had their first drives on their

Countess Chimes wins
1916 Victoria Derby



father's horses at the 1905 Bathurst and Orange Shows in April of that year but neither was successful that year. However, at the 1906 Bathurst Show on 5/4/96 Peter drove his first winner on his father's mare Edith (by Piccaninny) and followed this up with several wins at the Orange Show a few weeks later on Perfection, Pickwick and Bessie.

Still on a learning curve Peter drove Edith to a heat/final win at the Forbes Show in August 1906 but had to wait 10 months for another drive this time at Ascot in Sydney on 10/6/07 where he scored a surprise treble in his debut on a Metro track winning with Edith and a double on Pickwick.

Over the next month Riddle scored race wins at Kurrajong (North Richmond) and Ascot with Zillah H and Pickwick and then won 2 races on his hometrack at Cowra. 1908 brought more wins for Riddle at Bathurst (1), Epping (H Pk) (5), Cowra (2), and at Kurrajong his main wins coming on Pickwick, Ben's Pick and Piccaninny Junior.

In the years 1909, 1910, 1911 Riddle secured another 26 wins including 16 at Metro Sydney tracks and by now he was getting many outside drives from owners in addition to his father's horses. The calibre of the horses he was now driving was improving viz:- Golden Pic, Piccaninny 11, Epic, Maggie S, Eureka, Domino Ohwyette were all Metro winners.

The year of 1912 was the one that the Leading Driver in Metro Sydney (Gus Millsom) was sensationally disqualified on 25/3/12 and then tragically died on 5/5/13. Prior to his disqualification Millsom was also the Manager of the "Fairfield Trotting Stud Farm" at Windsor on the Hawkesbury River-the proprietors of the stud were Percy, Robert and Charles Miller all wealthy carcase butchers. "Fairfield" had a four furlong training track and standing at the stud were Belmont M, Fairfield, and St Elmo.

However, on his disqualification Millsom lost his position at "Fairfield" and in the short term Percy Miller appointed Arthur Reynolds-a young horseman living at Windsor-on a temporary basis for 12 months to manage the stable and stud farm.

The Millers during 1912 gave Peter Riddle many winning drives and obviously had him in mind to take over Fairfield's business and racing activities after Arthur Reynolds temporary appointment expired. For the remainder of 1912 and into 1913 Riddle won with Miller owned horses including Rothschild Junior (later Fairfield), Marjorie M, Nan, and Sweet Elmo.

In 1913 Peter Riddle was appointed as Fairfield's Manager, Head Trainer/Driver whilst brothers David and Albert (Bert) also assisted Peter and trained their own horses at "Fairfield".

During this initial stage Riddle picked up many outside drives which included Ribbonite, Final Voyage, Adelaide Direct, Marble Arch, Winn Alto,

Lord Ribbonwood and AR Tewkesbury's team of Countess Chimes, Princess Chimes, Parole's Promise, Australian Parole USA, Delavan Belle and Vice Regal Parole.

By the end of 1914 Peter Riddle had driven 101 winners and on 16/10/14 he put together a team of horses to take to Christchurch, NZ, which included Spot, Winn Alto, Lord Ribbonwood, Nan, Marble Arch and Fancygante USA. However, the team did not live up to expectations with Spot (Vic) in saddle the only winner whilst Nan ran two seconds, Marble Arch one second, Fancygante USA one third. Whilst disappointed at the results, however, he had gained an insight into New Zealand racing an experience he must have kept in mind for in 1922 he made a more successful trip to New Zealand and then moved to Auckland first and then to Christchurch for five years from 1923.

In the period leading up to 1922 Peter Riddle had many more wins with the Miller owned horses which were mainly raced in his name as lessee. Successful horses in this latter regard were Chicago, Rothschild Junior, St Paul, Nan whilst AR Tewkesbury's Countess Chimes, Vice Regal Parole, Princess Chimes mostly raced in Riddle's name.

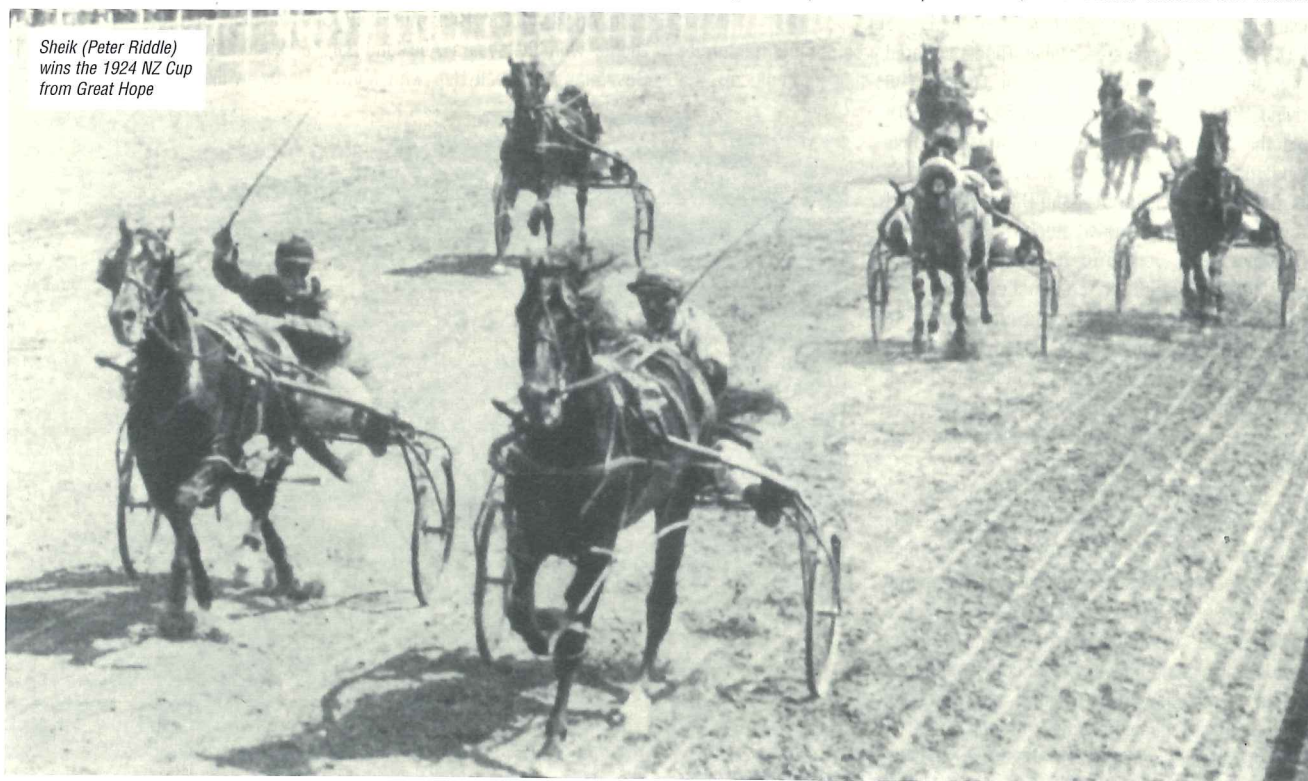
Classic winners driven by Riddle during the period 1912 -15

- Vice Regal Parole -1912 Heat & Final 2yo Trotting Sires Produce at Epping NSW
- Marjorie M -1912 Heat & Final 2yo Pacing Sires Produce at Epping
- Countess Chimes -1913 Heat & Final Pacing Sires Produce at Richmond, Vic
- Countess Chimes -1914 Melbourne Derby Thousand at Richmond.
- Princess Chimes -1914 Heat & Final Sires Produce at Richmond, Vic
- Princess Chimes-1916 Melbourne Derby Thousand at Richmond, Vic
- Chid -1916 Heat and Final Sires Produce at Richmond, Vic

During these years Riddle was based at "Fairfield" training for the Miller Brothers and AR Tewkesbury, however, the Millers were relinquishing their trotting interests and changing over to thoroughbreds. As a first step to this end the Millers purchased in 1915 a tract of the famous old stud farm "Segenhoe" at Scone north of Newcastle and called it "Kiaora" a name that became synonymous with excellence in thoroughbred breeding. In 1916 his brother "Bert" (Albert W) Riddle was appointed Manager/Studmaster of "Kiaora". (See authors note 2 for Bert Riddle)

The "Fairfield" stable and stud were kept going by the Miller Brothers but it would be only a few years before it too was sold and closed.

In the meantime Peter Riddle's winners kept coming and with the former leading driver (Gus Millsom) now dead, Peter Riddle became the Leading



Sheik (Peter Riddle) wins the 1924 NZ Cup from Great Hope

From left: NSW Breeder John Cameron, Peter Riddle and Mrs Riddle



Driver at the Metro Sydney tracks - the following is a list of his NSW Metro wins from 1910 to 1922 and his place on the leading Drivers list-1911-6W (2nd); 1912-14W (1st); 1913-3W; 1914-15W(1st); 1915-20W (1st); 1916-1st); 1917-16W (1st); 1918-(1st); 1919-1st; 1920-28W-(1st) 1921-9W; 1922-22W(2nd).

To these wins must be added 10 Metro wins at Richmond, Victoria, and seven in New Zealand from two trips to NZ in 1914 and 1922. Overall the number of races Riddle won in Australia, Victoria and New Zealand totalled approximately 176 until Riddle moved to New Zealand in 1923 which included 21 wins at Show meetings in his early years.

1920, however, was a year when Riddle suffered a compound fracture of a leg on 8/4/20 and it was not until January 1921 that he could resume driving. Whilst on the injured list the Miller Brothers sold the "Fairfield" and dispersed most of their standardbred horses at a sale on 22/6/20 at which the stallions Homeleigh Dick and Direct Wilkes and 60 mares, foals, and untried stock were auctioned. The Millers endeavoured to continue their trotting stud in conjunction with the thoroughbred stud but after several years the standardbred department was closed forever and so Australia's most important standardbred stud was broken up and Peter Riddle had to make other arrangements in Sydney to continue his training and driving operations.

In the event he leased several stables firstly at Canterbury and then at Mascot from which he won with many races with Homeleigh Dick, Lee White, Box Seat, Sheik and others gave him enough winners to keep near the top of the drivers list. However, the gap between Riddle and younger drivers was closing up with Jack Eddie winning the drivers premiership in 1916, 1921 and 1922 and coming up second eight times through to 1925. Another younger and possibly better driver than

both of them, however, in EL (Jerry) McDonald was also starting to mount a challenge and for a decade he reigned supreme around the Sydney tracks.

In 1922 and obviously with a change of scenery in mind, he married Linda M Casey in Sydney and then transferred a team to race in Auckland for short time. Whilst preparing for the trip he continued drive around the Sydney tracks winning with Lee White, St Lucia Lad, Olga Pronto, Kissing Cup NZ, Julia Maud, Joe Aspro and Sheik. However, the team he took to Auckland November 1922 comprised initially of Minton Derby, Sheik, Clarrie Daly, Argus, and St. Lucia Lad.

In Auckland for 1922 Auckland Cup meeting at Christmas/New Year Riddle won that years Auckland Cup of 2000 Sovereigns and the 1000 Sovereign Campbell Hcp with Minton Derby, whilst Sheik won the 1000



Sheik



Sovereigns Otahuhu Cup and Premier Hcp. Argus won the Papakura Hcp. Returning to Sydney Riddle had made up his mind to move his entire operations to New Zealand where prizemoney was extremely high in comparison with Sydney and Melbourne.

In September 1923 he transferred a team of horses initially to Auckland but in the new year of 1924 he moved to Christchurch. Accompanying him and his horses were Dan Doolan his stable manager and an under trainer Alf Mead. The team comprised Sheik, Escort, Delavan's Quest, Darknite, Marion Style, Stroller, Realm, Retreat (Orion), and McKinney Lass.

Beginning in late 1923, Riddle won with Sheik in the 1000 sovereign races the Presidents Hcp and dead heating in the Liverpool Handicap, AR Tewkesbury's Delavan's Quest won the 1000 sovereigns Otahuhu Cup and another high prizemoney race, whilst Darknite, McKinney Lass and Escort also won. Riddle's wins for the 1923/24 season totalled seven and a dead heat plus two in Sydney.

In Christchurch for the New Zealand Cup meeting of 1924 Sheik and Riddle shocked the locals by winning the Cup in New Zealand record time for two miles. Other winners for the season of 1924/25 included Delavan's Quest, Realm (from 72 yds). Retreat (Orion), and Sunny Jim.

For the 1925/26 season Riddle's success rate was only marginally better with Young Blake, Delavan's Quest (3 wins), Retreat (1), Dolly Dillon (1-NZ Gold Cup), and Bell Harold (1). The problem for Riddle was that his success was shorn up with his Australian horses but he could not attract New Zealand owners to any great extent in the same manner that expatriate Australian horseman WJ Tomkinson was then having.

In the 1926/27 season Riddle won with Young Blake (2 wins), Bertha Bingen (1), Auto Machine (1), Margalong (1), Golden Bubbles (2) and he was well aware that his venture was failing. Pulling the plug in 1927 Peter and Linda Riddle returned to Sydney after five years in New Zealand. Selling as many of his team as he could Riddle resumed his career in Sydney with Sheik, Deanwood, Margalong (owned by his father), Delavan's Quest (AR Tewkesbury's), and the New Zealanders Happy Rosa (tr) and Golden Bubbles. It was put around that Peter Riddle was considering transferring to the thoroughbred industry a rumour that proved correct by the end of 1927.

In his last season training and driving standardbreds Riddle had success with Sheik (5 wins), Deanwood (1 win), Happy Rosa NZ (3 wins), Pandora (3 wins), Native Prince (1 win). Sheik although aging found a new life around the Sydney tracks winning a mile race in 2:10 _ from 60 yards and followed this up with a two mile win from 156 yards then winning again this time from 168 yards in 4.24 for the two miles. In his last win for Riddle the aging pacer racing unhoppled from 198 yards won over a mile and a half on 12/12/1927 at Victoria Park.

Having one last sortie to New Zealand, Riddle took Sheik, Happy Rosa NZ, and Native Prince to Auckland for the Cup Carnival at years end, however, the trio could only manage placings for Riddle who, however, managed to win on Young Blake for a NZ owner.

Coming back to Sydney for the last time, as it transpired, Peter Riddle won his last race in the standardbred industry on Pandora from 132 yards at Victoria Park on 6/2/28. Sheik was sold for a further career with another owner and trainer, and Delavan's Quest was sold by Mr Tewkesbury for 500 pounds to Mr E Byrnes a bookmaker and leading patron of the Jerry McDonald stable.

Setting up a thoroughbred stable in Sydney after disposing of all his standardbred stock Riddle initially took Hugh J Cameron (the previous owner of Sheik) and Robert J (Bob) Byers (owner of Robert Derby) over to the thoroughbreds as his chief patrons.

The initial success for Peter Riddle came with the three year old filly Sweet Oration in 1928 at Warwick Farm. The mare was one of a number of older thoroughbreds taken over ready to race and he also had owners of 10 highly bred and costly yearlings in his stables. The Australian Jockey Club granted Peter Riddle a Number One Licence to train at Randwick and also allowed him to register his trotting colours – Pale Blue and Black Halves, Black Cap.

Meeting early success with moderate horses in his first years, Riddle met disaster when he and Bob Byers were disqualified for 12 months in March 1931 for not allowing the two year old colt Prince Elmo to do its best. Strangely the jockey was exonerated but Riddle and Byers lost their appeals.

It is not exactly clear when Peter Riddle clear when Peter Riddle leased

stables at Bowral Street, Kensington, near Randwick Racecourse. Leased from the widow of the late Frank Marsden who was the trainer for the coal baron John Brown of Newcastle Riddle shared the stables with two other trainers. Later, on the death of Riddle, the stables were sold to TJ (Tommy) Smith and renamed "Tulloch Lodge". These days Sydney's leading trainer Gai Waterhouse the daughter of Tommy Smith now trains from Tulloch Lodge.

Although Riddle had much success during the 1930's with moderate horses he failed to get hold of a champion or even a near champion but his luck changed in 1941 when he purchased Modulation (F1939) by Manitoba GB) as a yearling at the 1941 Inglis Easter Sales. Modulation went on to win 1943 AJC St Leger for three year olds, the 1944 Epsom considered to be one of the top mile races at Randwick and in 1945 Modulation won the WFA George Main Stakes.

Peter Riddle had good advice from his brother Bert who was manager of Kiaora Stud at the 1943 Yearling Sales and purchased the colt Shannon (F1941 by Midstream) for 350 guineas whilst Bert purchased another colt called Bravo (F1941 by Le Grand Duc) both were bred at Kiaora.

Bravo was given by Bert Riddle to his brother Peter to train and turned out to be a top-class galloper winning the AJC Villiers Stakes and many other sprint handicaps. Shannon as a two year old won three races and was placed second three times from seven starts. His wins included the 1944 AJC Sires Produce Stakes and much was expected of him.

At about this time Peter Riddle's health started to seriously decline and for some years he had been gradually reducing his team from around 25-30 horses to somewhere below 10. His heart condition had forced him for many years to reduce his activities and to race only in the Sydney area-his horses were never raced interstate and in Shannon's case there were three ten months spells in his racing career so that Shannon a first class galloper and never reaching his full potential had only 21 starts for 12 wins and 5 seconds from four seasons of racing whilst in Riddle's care.

It would seem that Riddle's heart condition could have been inherited from his mother Catherine who had died at age 38 in 1900 from dropsy and heart disease and his doctor directed Riddle to take holidays many times to rest up his ailing heart. Despite lack of racing Shannon had good performances at four and five years. His three year old season was perhaps his worst winning one race only (1944 AJC Hobartville St) from 4 starts. As a four and five year old Shannon redeemed himself winning eight races and placed second twice from 10 starts- his wins including the AJC Campbelltown Hcp (2), Tattersalls Tramway Hcp, STC Rosehill St, Epsom Hcp, Theo Marks Quality Hcp, WFA George Main St, AJC King's Cup. Included in these performances were several track records.

Peter Riddle died suddenly on 27/6/1947 from a massive stroke/heart attack. This was a somewhat predictable outcome as he had been in ill health for at least eight years.

The executors of his estate sold Shannon on 26/8/47 to WJ Smith for 26,000 guineas for whom Shannon won twice and placed second twice from four starts before selling Shannon to North America for 31,250 pounds..

In California Shannon did not immediately strike form but after several months his form lifted and the stallion won 46,680 pounds from 6 wins and 8 placings which included wins in the Hollywood Gold Cup, the Golden Gate Hcp, The Forty Niner Hcp etc running two world records and was then sold to Spendthrift Farm for stud duties his produce winning \$US2M in 6 seasons a huge amount in those days. Shannon was humanely destroyed in May 1955.

Peter and Linda Riddle's daughter June married Andre Charles Ozoux in 1942 and in a partnership in the horse Duo trained by Ron Dickerson, Duo among other races won the AJC Metropolitan, the Newcastle Cup, and then ran third to Galilee and Light Fingers in the 1966 Melbourne Cup. June's daughter Mardi is married to the well known Brian Henderson Channel 9 newsreader and presenter.

AUTHOR'S NOTE 2. ALBERT W ("BERT") RIDDLE.

Born 1887 at the small locality/village of Waia near Numurkah in North Eastern Victoria, Bert Riddle was just three years old when the Riddle family overlanded to Cowra, NSW, in 1890. As were his elder brothers David, Peter and Walter Robert, he was quickly taught the rudiments of farm life including the care and training of horses then the only means of travel in the isolated areas of northern Victoria and south-west NSW.

His father owned Piccaninny and many of that stallions produce that were bred and owned by the Riddle family. Initially the family horses were driven by Wallie Martin and his father but gradually David and Peter started to take over the driving at Shows and Sports Meetings where the boys got a good grounding in the rough and tumble of amateur racing in those days.

Bert's first drive at a Show was on 5/4/06 at Bathurst when he finished 3rd on his father's gelding Bori but he was not given another public drive for 30 months. Walter his father had a problem with four boys David, Peter, Walter R and Bert all wanting to share the driving of the family horses. Bert's first winning drive came at the Metro Sydney track at Epping on 3/11/1908 when he won on Pickwick a fast pacer and apparently the work horse for the family of four boys.

Bert did not know it then that his driving career was going to be limited to the period up to 1916 when his career took a turn towards another code in the horse industry.

In the period 1908-15 Bert drove 27 Metro winners in Sydney and 1 in Melbourne plus 11 wins at country meetings, shows and sports meetings. His winning drives came on Pickwick (6), Zillah H (1), Waratah (2), Eureka (2), Picotee (2), Little Dot (1), Bonedo (2), Huon Times (2), Young Honest Huon (1), Doreen (1), Consul (6), Golden Pic (1), Lady Jackharon (1), Galtimore (1), Togo Belle USA (2), Miss Coronado USA (1), Purple Ribbon (1), Dick Daly (2), Amy Ribbons (1).

In particular Bert Riddle challenged his brother Peter in the Leading Drivers List in the seasons 1913/14 and 1914/1915 when he drove 13 and 10 wins respectively to finish second on the List both seasons. However, the writing was already on the wall for a change of vocation within a year.

The Riddle family had moved to Granville a suburb of Sydney prior to 1910 and in 1913 his brother Peter was named as the manager of the Miller Brothers "Fairfield Trotting Stud" near Windsor. Bert also moved to Windsor to assist his brother in training and driving but more and more he was allocated the task of looking after the Stud's breeding activities that were headlined by the stallions Belmont M, St Elmo, and Fairfield.

In 1915 the Miller Brothers purchased a tract of the old Segenhoe Stud Estate near Scone calling it "Kiaora" and set about establishing a thoroughbred stud. Peter Riddle was retained as the Manager of Fairfield and as the Miller Trainer and Driver until 1920 when "Fairfield" and all the trotting stock were sold.

In the meantime in 1916 at the age of 29 years Bert Riddle was appointed Manager of the "Kiaora" Thoroughbred Stud and began his new career. Initially Percy Miller had taken several trotting stallions and about 10 trotting mares to "Kiaora" but after several years these were disposed of and "Kiaora" became a full thoroughbred stud which over the years became extremely successful and their yearlings became much sought after at the Sydney Easter Yearling Sales.

The first thoroughbred sire purchased by Percy Miller for "Kiaora" in 1916 was the imported Flippant GB (F1910) which came with eight imported mares. Later Miller bought imported Demosthenes GB (F1907) from New Zealand. Around the same time the Millers imported the grey Sarchedon GB (F). The afterwards famous sire Magpie GB (F1914) came to "Kiaora" in 1920 and some years later the Millers purchased Midstream GB (F1933) who distinguished himself by siring Riverton, Murray Stream, Drumnet and Shannon etc.

Bert Riddle and Percy Miller placed great emphasis on the cross between Midstream GB over Magpie GB mares that became a "golden cross" in the thoroughbred world. In 1921 Magpie GB had sired Windbag who in the name of Robert Miller won the 1925 Melbourne Cup. Windbag had previously won the AJC St Leger and other major races. Windbag after his Melbourne Cup win was sold to Alec Hunter of Seymour, Victoria, a former owner of the great pacer and sire Globe Derby. Demosthenes GB brought to "Kiaora" at the same time as Magpie GB got his own Melbourne Cup winner in 1928 with Statesman.

As Bert Riddle became more well known his reputation for fair dealing was



Champion
Thoroughbred
Windbag

respected by all and when the Sydney Turf Club (STC) was being established by the NSW State Government shortly after the conclusion of World War 2 the then Premier of NSW and later Governor General of Australia the Hon (later Sir William) WJ McKell appointed Bert Riddle as a Director of the STC. This was a prestigious appointment but Riddle was well known to McKell firstly through trotting and later thoroughbreds. In the late 1920's and through the 1930's McKell had bred and raced high quality standardbreds notably the fast pacer Derby Adonis.

McKell well knew all about proprietary racing prior to the war and he was determined that none of those tracks would reopen under proprietorship racing after the war. The Government therefore decided to form a single racing body in addition to the Australian Jockey Club to race at several of the closed racetracks which comprised Rosehill, Kensington, Roseberry, Victoria Park, and Canterbury. Of these tracks only Canterbury and Rosehill were resurrected.

McKell stressed "that he wanted for the new STC men of unquestioned integrity and good repute, of proved administrative or professional competence and with a leavening of men with a big sporting background. They would have to be pacesetters and determined to make a success of the new venture. Finally, McKell stressed he would personally select the new Directors". McKell believed that Bert Riddle had these requirements and never had cause to regret Riddle's appointment. Riddle was 58 years of age at the time of his appointment.

The STC today has developed its Rosehill Racecourse into a significant racecourse complex and its greatest race is the Golden Slipper surely the most magnificent race for two year olds in Australia.

Bert Riddle would have been proud to have played a foundation role in its development.

AUTHORS NOTE 3. DAVID RIDDLE.

Born in 1883 probably at Kaarimba in north eastern Victoria, David was the eldest son of Walter and Catherine Riddle. Years later when it was discovered his birth had not been registered he said he was born at Riddle's Creek-this name not to be confused with Riddell's Creek which is close to Gisborne in southern Victoria. The Riddle's Creek address was possibly the



name of the local creek on Riddle's property at Kaarimba.

In 1890 the Riddle family moved overland to Cowra, NSW and David was the first of the Riddle Brothers to be taught horsemanship. He proved to be nearly if not the best horseman in the Riddle family, however, he had a rebellious streak in him that worked against him in his future life.

At the age of eleven and weighing just over five stone his father took him to the 1895 Bathurst Show where he rode his father's horse Streak o'Light over six feet 1 _ inches to win the high jumping event. The other riders protested against David Riddle being of such light weight, however, the rules for the event said that catch weights were permitted and whilst he won the protest the rules were changed for the next years event whereby the minimum weight was set down at nine stone.

We next find David at the 1905 Orange Show at age 22 years driving his fathers Lady Cloth of Gold to an unplaced performance from 10 seconds behind. Not driving again until 18 months later at the 1906 Forbes Show David drove the winners of four races. In early 1907 David married Ruby M O'Neile at Cowra and their first son Frederick Walter was born later the same year. In the same year David became the lessee of the Great Western Hotel in Cowra- a profession he went back to from time to time over the next thirty years.

Another boy Lloyd David Riddle was born and died in 1909 and by 1911 David and family had moved to Sydney but still raced many horses in the Riverina area for well known farmers/graziers including, HB Beveridge, TJ Heffernan, TJ Moloney, W Duck. The horses he won on in this era (1911-1914) included Nightlight, Miss Kitty, Waitress. Dreadnaught, Domino, St Helena, Society Girl, Boreen, Tralee, Galtimore, Dixie Rose, Dixie Cleve, Lady Ulster many of whom can be found in the Stud Book as winner producers.

Becoming lessee of the Pymble Hotel in northern Sydney in 1912 David still managed to train and drive at country tracks and in Metro Sydney but by 1914 he had concentrated on Sydney racing. Winning with Winn Alto, Dorrie, Society Girl and Miss Coronado USA. His lifetime winners from 1906 to July 1914 totalled 44 wins including 15 Metro wins.

During 1914 he was given Cyril C to train and drive by owner Joseph Corby of Cootamundra. Cyril C had previously been shown in stud classes as Globe Derby at Shows around the Temora area by Dugald Hastie of Temora but was registered on Metro tracks by Joseph Corby as Cyril C after his son's name.

Backed to odds on 29/5/14 at Victoria Park Racecourse in Sydney, Cyril C fell when some other starters also fell in front of him. Both Cyril C and David Riddle escaped unharmed and the parties decided to go to Melbourne to recoup their losses. Starting at Richmond on 9/6/14 Cyril C finished unplaced and the Stewards took exception to the driving tactics of David Riddle. Cyril C his owner Joseph Corby and his trainer/driver David Riddle were disqualified for a nett twelve months after an appeal on 23/7/14.

On the same date the Appeal Board also heard an appeal by David Riddle against another disqualification on his driving of Lord Elmo on 9/7/14 also at Richmond Victoria. Winning one appeal but losing the other David Riddle was out of trotting for twelve months. It is history that Cyril C reverted to his original name Globe Derby and when the disqualification expired the stallion went on to fame and fortune but David Riddle was not to be part of it.

On 14/9/15 Riddle resumed driving around the Metro Sydney tracks and had considerable success winning 31 races around these tracks up to 1921 when he and his family moved to head up his father's trotting operations at Moonah a suburb of Hobart, Tasmania.

In November 1922 David's son Frederick then 15 years of age was a very promising apprentice jockey and had won eleven galloping races in his so far limited career. Trying his hand at driving trotters Frederick won a race at the 1922 Hobart Show on Royal Arcade on 1/11/22. However, Frederick was fatally injured on 13/11/22 when riding Iris a two year old filly who fell in the Tasmanian Guineas at Elwick on 13/11/22,

By 1923 David was racing a big team mostly comprising horses from NSW and from New Zealand for his father and local Hobart owners-his team included the mysterious pacer Moneyka. Ordered to produce Moneyka by the trotting authorities for identification purposes David was enough of a rebel to refuse and was subsequently disqualified until he did so. This was his third disqualification and he turned his back on trotting for a while becoming a Hotel lessee at New Norfolk for some years.

However, time moves on and eventually making his peace in Hobart he resumed a successful training/driving career and in 1926 took a team of

pacers to Sydney to race. Returning to Hobart by 1932 he again built up a successful stable of horses. On 7/12/32 it was reported that David Riddle was now the only remaining member of the Riddle family still left in Tasmania and was training the successful pacers Gold Daley, Real Silk, Schemer Dillon and Sydney Bridge on his father's old track at Moonah. His driver in the 1930's was the youthful but brilliant Jack Stamford a star in the making.

David returned to Sydney sometime in the mid 1930's and died there in 1943, a brilliant horseman who had somehow lost his way.

AUTHORS NOTE 4. JOHN SWINDLE - A SYNOPSIS

Born in Cumberland in the north of England in 1853 John Swindle immigrated to Victoria in 1862 with his parents and brother Robert. His father George took up goldmining at Creswick and bought land there building a farmhouse not far from another miner and landholder Peter Smeaton.

John Swindle claimed in his brief memoirs 60 years later that he was connected with trotters since he was 12 years of age. However it may be John Swindle married Ann Smeaton (born 1853 at Edinburgh, Scotland) and who came to Australia with her parents (Peter and Helen) in 1855. Ann was the sister of Catherine Maria who later married Walter Riddle in 1881 at Creswick.

John and Ann's first born (George b 1877) was born at Creswick but thereafter the Swindle's moved to Mooropna (in 1876), Yielima Forest (near Barmah) 1878), Barwo (1886) in northeast Victoria before moving to Mount York near Cowra NSW around 1887.

John Swindle appears to have been a grazier taking up pastoral leases at these localities before moving on at a profit. Nevertheless he also appears to have been a horse breeder and trainer/driver racing his trotter Torpedo and winning at Kaarimba and at Forbes when he moved to Cowra. During this time in his life he also bred some fillies by Torpedo whose descendants played a role for him in trotting at a later stage.

Moving on again to Rosebrook Park, Canowindra around 1889-90 he transferred his Mount York property to his brother in law Walter Riddle and his wife Catherine Maria the sister of his own wife Ann.

Towards the end of the 19th century the Swindle's purchased the stallions Don Cleve and Claredo racing and winning with them around the Sydney area where Don Cleve won at Forest Lodge (later Harold Park) and Kensington. Both of the stallions were also used as sires in this time.

In 1901 the Swindle's moved again this time to the Melbourne area where successfully raced Don Cleve, Claredo and the mare Princess around the country and Metro Melbourne tracks. Don Cleve and Claredo were also advertised to stand at stud at Craigieburn and Whittlesea in 1902. By 1905 the two stallions were located at Shepparton.

By 1909 the Swindle's were back in Sydney but shortly after moved to a property called "Ivanhoe Farm" at Gunnedah in the north of NSW. Prior to moving to Gunnedah and whilst in Sydney John Swindle had purchased the winning performer Black Huon from the Woodham family who were now related to the Swindle's through a marriage of their son (George Swindle) to a daughter of William R Woodham (Florence).

The Swindle's sold the Gunnedah property in 1914 and now with about 20 horses and cattle stock moved to a 6000 acre property called "Nebraska" at Cundumbul on the Molong Road but then proceeded to sell pieces of "Nebraska" so that by 1925 the whole had been sold. Early in the 1920's the family had moved to "Pinegrove" and later "Glenelg Farm" on the Canowindra Road, near Cudal.

In 1920 John Swindle had bred his mare Crystal Clare by Claredo to Black Huon to produce Torpedo Huon (P.2:13.9) in 1921 who went on to win the 1925 Melbourne Derby Thousand. Torpedo Huon was the best pacer that John Swindle ever owned, however, Swindle could not take advantage of Torpedo Huon's win as he had leased Black Huon his sire to a Shepparton breeder in 1921. Black Huon was renamed Grand Huon for his stud career in Victoria.

Mrs Ann Swindle died at "Pine Grove" Cudal in July 1926 at 73 years of age and was buried at Canowindra next to her sister Catherine Maria Riddle who died in 1900. John Swindle himself died in 1937 and was also buried at Canowindra. Someone in the Swindle family must have had a fair sense of justice for Catherine for in a quiet corner of the Canowindra General Cemetery you can find the headstones for the sisters Ann and Catherine together with that of John Swindle buried alongside each other.

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