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How Much is a Horse Worth?

That is the question that the editor of the Hoise Show Monthly recently had put to him by a person who was certainly old enough to know better. However, a civil question is deserving of a civil answer, independent of the matter of its sanity. If anyone should ask you "How long is a string?" you should reply to him to the best of your ability. The spirit might move you to smite him, and proceed on your way, but that would be wrong.

A horse is worth as much as he brings to the purchaser-who is satisfied with his bargain-pays for him. He is also worth all he will bring to the man who wants to sell. It is related of Phil Chinn (yes, he is one of those Kentucky Chinns) that he traded an old overcoat for a horse that proved a stake-winner, and broke down as soon as Mr. Chinn sold him for \$17,000, after winning many races with him. There is a newspaper carrier in one of our large cities who has a pony that he has repeatedly refused \$150 for, although he knows that the animal would not bring \$40 at an auction sale. It is the moral quality of this pony that makes him valuable, and unfortunately moral qualities are not vendible.

However, there is large interest attached to the prices that men pay for horses, just as there is to the amount of alimony some women get judgment for. An employee of the Walnut Breeding Farm, at Lexington, Ky., recently completed and made public a list of the sums paid for champion harness horses in the United States in the last fifty years.

According to this, the first of the famous old-time trotters that changed hands at a high figure was Pocahontas \$40.000 in 1864.

Since that time, other trotting mares that have sold for big prices are: Sunol $(2.08\frac{1}{4})$. \$41,000; Maud S. $(2.08\frac{3}{4})$, the champion trotter for many years, for whom Robert Bonner paid \$40,000 Nancy Hanks (2.04), the champion trotter of her time, for whom the late J. Malcolm Forbes paid \$40,000; Goldsmith Maid (2.14), sold for \$32,000; while Lady Thorne (2:181) went for \$30,000. The highest price ever paid for a trotter was \$125,000, paid by Forbes to Leland Stanford, of California, for the stallion, Arion $(2.07\frac{3}{4})$ in 1892. Three years previous to that, Axtell (2.12) was sold to a syndicate for \$125,000, and has proven a most prolific sire of speed.

When the horses owned by Forbes were sold to close out the estate, the trotting stallion, Bingen (2.06%), went to A. H. Parker, of Bedford, Mass., for \$32,000. Last November, M. W. Savage, of Minreapolis, Minn., paid \$21,000 for Cresceus $(2.02\frac{1}{4})$. Other stallions that sold for large sums were Director (2:17), for \$75,000; Red Wilkes (2:40) for \$60,000; Anteeo (2:161), for \$55,000; Bell Boy (2.144), that met death by fire shortly after selling, for \$51,000, the largest price ever realized for a harnes horse at a public auction.

Robert McGregor (2.17), si e Cresceus, sold for \$50,000, successful Ohio sire, Wilton (2 194), Acolyte (2:21), the pet of J. S. Coxey, of Coxey-army fame, cost him \$40,000. Other high prices secured for trotting stalliens were \$42,000 for Stamboul, 35,000 for Antevolo $(2.19\frac{1}{2})$, 35,000 for Dare Devil (2:09), \$35,000 for Conductor (2:14½), \$31,000 for The King, and \$30,000 each for Jay Gould (2.21) and Ralph Wilkes (2.06%), and \$20,000 for Directum (2:051).

Quite a number of geldings have sold for high figures. Rarus 2 131) and Dexter (2:174), both champions of their day, sold for \$36,000 and \$35,000, respectively. Prince Wilkes (2.14) sold for \$30.-000 in 1899. The Abbott (2.064) brought \$26,000 under the hammer five years ago. E. E. Smathers paid \$40,-000 for Major Pelmar (1.593). C. K. Billings secured a bargain when he paid \$12,500 at auction for the champion, Lou Dillon (1:581).

The top price paid for a pacer is \$60,-000, the amount M. W. Savage is said to have paid for the champion, Dan Patch

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