NOVEMBER 8, 1906

Sweet Marie, 2.02.

The queen of harness mares, Sweet Marie, the champion trotter, possibly the greatest campaigner of all times, was bred by a poor colored man, who knew nothing of blood lines or pedigrees, and was developed by accident, as the following sketch of her history shows :

One March morning in 1889, Charles Durfee, the well-known driver and breeder, left Los Angeles for the east for the purpose of purchasing a young stallion. He was accompanied by Charles Lockhart, who was about to secure the nucleus of a breeding farm, which he was about to start near Burbank, Los Angeles County. Durfee purchased the then two-year-old McKinley, by Alcyone, a son of George Wilkes and Cannon Ball, three-year-old stallion, by Simmonds. Everyone posted on light-harness topics knows that McKinney has become the greatest sire of speed in the world, having more 2.10 trotters to his credit than any other stallion, living or dead. Among the brood mares purchased by Lockhart was Lady Rivers, by Carr's Mambrino, dam Susie, by Vermont. He secured this mare from D. K. Edwards, who bred her when a resident of Salinas Susie was used as a buggy mare.

Lockhart did not make a success of his breeding venture, ewing to the drop in the value of all harness horses, and Lady Rivers was sold to E. K. Benchly, of Los Angeles. She proved to be very balky mare, and of no use for driving purposes. Consequently, Benchly assigned her to the sales-ring, where she was acquired by John Schurmacher, the Los Angeles photographer, for \$180. Schurmacher could do nothing with the mare, as she absolutely refused to be After she broke a couple of driven. carts, Schurmacher determined to get rid of Lady Rivers at any cost. But no one wanted the high-strung mare.

The Schurmacher family employed a colored man named Billy Smart to cart away the refuse at \$1 per week. Frank Schurmacher told Smart that he would give him Lady Rivers of he continued to take away the refuse. Smart refused the proposition, but said that he would take the mare, provided that she was bred to some stallion. As Schurmacher had the privilege of breeding to McKinney, who was then an unknown quantity the bargain was consummated. Frank Schurmacher saved \$52, and Smart got Sweet Marie, as that was the result of the mating of McKinney and Lady Rivers. Smart kept Sweet Marie in pasture until she was three years old, at which age she was broken. In the fall, Smart turned her over to a colored trainer, named Sam Washington. She showed a mile in $2.26\frac{1}{2}$, and was purchased by Mile M. Potter, the wellknown hotelman. He drove her at the matinee races, held at Agricultural Park, for a couple of years. Potter finally decided to sell all his light-harness horses, including Sweet Marie. Garland, the present owner, was the purchaser of Sweet Marie, paying \$3,150 for the daughter of McKinney. Sweet Maria a big-gaited and slow to get into her stride at that time, and Potter is entitled to the great est credit for the development of Sweet Marie. It required six months of hard work after she could trot a mile in 2.15 before she could make the first quarter better than 35 seconds. Potter had her worked with Primrose, 2.10, and before the sale she could get away in such good style that she showed two miles in 2.12 and $2.12\frac{1}{2}$. That is the early history of Sweet Marie, the queen of all harness mres, and who has been invincible on the rand Circuit this year. Sweet Marie made her first professional start in 1903 at Seattle, where she captured several races. Then came the memorable race at the Oregon State Fair, at Salem, where she was beaten by Dr Hammond, owing to the refusal of Durfee to start Marie in the third heat. There was a scandal, and her driver was ruled off, but subsequently reinstated. Sweet Marie made her debut on the Grand Circuit in 1904. She took the 2.11 trot at Detroit, Mich., in straight heats of 2.10, 2.10; and 2.10; She was beaten at Buffalo, after taking the second heat in 2.094.

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At Providence, Sweet Marie attracted world-wide attention when she won a five heat race, taking the last three in 2.061, 2.081 and 2.081.

Lexington, in 1905, in a five-heat contest, Sweet Marie reduced her record