

Percentage & Myrtle Dee

By Byron Travis

James W. Parrish was a banker and racehorse fancier who lived all his life in the little town of Midway, Kentucky, about 15 miles west of Lexington. Parrish had upwards of 30 Thoroughbreds on his farm, and it was said he liked to breed for early speed as well as stamina for distance.

Of the two stallions he owned in 1939, Rolled Stocking and Percentage, Parrish particularly liked the latter, a sleek 16-year-old beauty by Midway out of Gossip Avenue by Bulse. That year, Parrish bred Percentage to several of his dozen-odd broodmares, and among them

was a fleet-footed mare named Myrtle Dee, holder of the 5½-furlong track record at the old Coney Island Track in Cincinnati. Myrtle Dee was by Luke McLuke, a noted sire of sprinting Thoroughbreds.

Unfortunately, Parrish died in October of 1939, and in the course of settling his estate, his widow decided to hold a dispersal sale of all the horses, to be held on April 15, 1940.

About two weeks before the sale, three men, Jack Goode, Ned Brent and Bill Talbot, offered to buy Myrtle Dee and two other mares in a package deal for \$800. Goode's

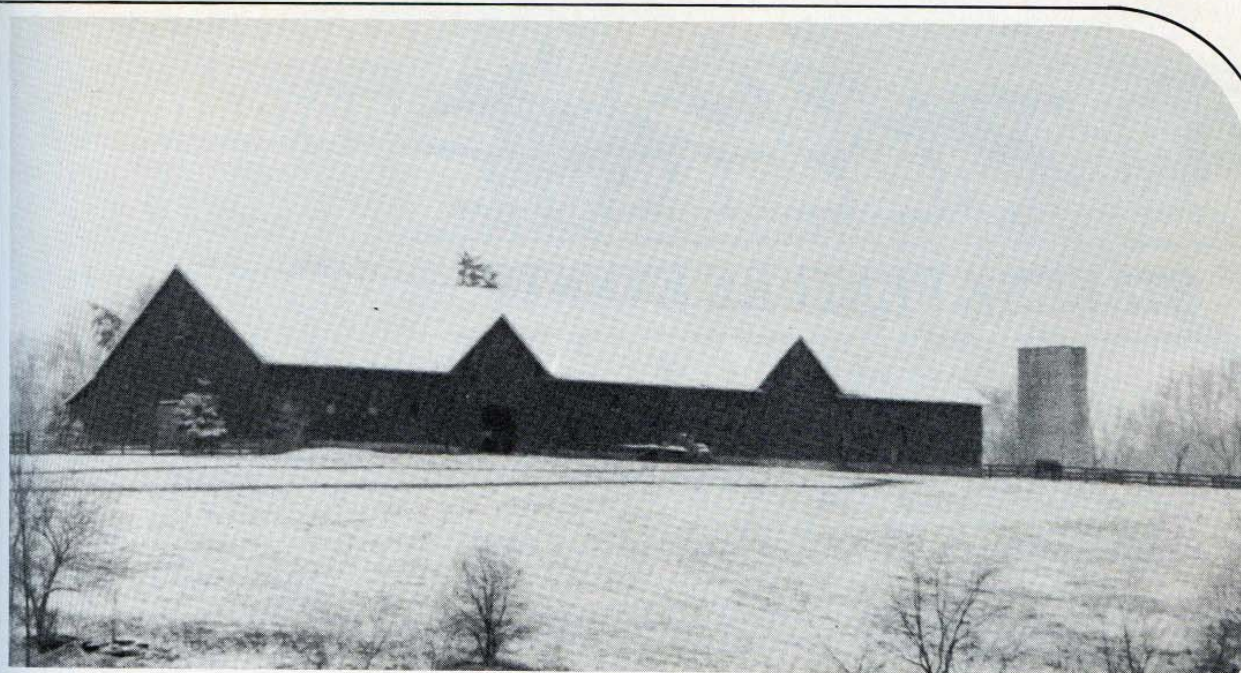
father, John, had for many years been a horse trainer for Parrish and was highly respected. Mrs. Parrish accepted their terms and sold them the three mares.

Old timers around Midway can't recall who bought Percentage, but the general opinion was that he sold for "about \$600." What happened to Percentage after that may be lost forever in the mists of yesteryear.

But Myrtle Dee had her colt by Percentage on April 8, only days after she was purchased, and her owners decided to name the colt...Three Bars. □



This rare photo shows Percentage (TB) in his prime, the proud winner of 19 races and \$42,000 — and the sire of Three Bars (TB).



The Parrish Farm barn where Percentage and Myrtle Dee were sold in 1940 still stands today, 37 years later.

9 Percentage

Winner 19 races and \$42,187 including Cincinnati Trophy, Pontchartrain Handicap, etc.

Sire of 16 winners from 21 starters which won 101 races and \$80,906 to end of 1939.

Half-brother to the stake winner Dellor, etc.

Chestnut stallion; foaled 1923.

PERCENTAGE	Midway	Ballot	Imp. Voter.
		Thirty-Third	Imp. Cerito.
	Gossip Avenue	Bulse	Sir Dixon.
		Rosewood	High Degree.

Disguise, Setherole, Magneto, Imp. Rose Tree 2nd.

By MIDWAY.

Winner 17 races including Louisville Cup, Clark, Kentucky, Merchants and Citizens, Saranac, National, Washington Handicaps, second in Huron Handicap, third in Kentucky Derby, Latonia Derby, etc.

Sire of Lightning Jones (Idle Hour Stakes, etc.), Percentage (Cincinnati Trophy, Pontchartrain Handicap, etc.), Middle West (Argentine Derby, etc.), Banbury Cross, Overdraft, Lena R., Cousin Lute, Mack's Baby, Bob Johnston, High Ball, Son of Midway, Stowaway, Go Away, Critic, Homewood, Baby Way, Thumbs Down, etc.

1st dam, Gossip Avenue..... by Bulse

Gossip Avenue won at two and is dam of the winners Percentage (19 wins and \$42,187 including Cincinnati Trophy, Pontchartrain Handicap, etc. and sire), Dellor (11 wins and \$38,650 to end of 1939 including Peabody Memorial, Arlington, Lincoln Handicaps, etc.), Town Limit (19 wins, also third in Kentucky Oaks, etc. and producer), Pope (28 wins to end of 1939), Euneva, Pigeon Fly, Peacock Alley, Winter Street and Mack's Baby and the producer Cogartown.

Gossip Avenue is sister to Louisville and Nashville, winner 21 races.

2nd dam, Rosewood..... by Magneto

Rosewood won at two and three years and is also dam of the winners Blackwood (17 wins including Lincoln, Crete Handicaps, etc. and sire), Stock Market (20 wins including Latonia Autumn Handicap, etc.), Woodlander (28 wins to end of 1939 including Epsom Downs Handicap, etc.), Lilly M. (13 wins), Cousin Lute (also producer), Full Swing, Last Rose, Woodlot and Woodsia, at two, three and at four 1939.

3rd dam, imp. Rose Tree 2nd..... by Bona Vista

Imp. Rose Tree 2nd won Garden City Stakes, etc. here and Wokington, Heath, Tyro Stakes, etc. in England and also produced the winners Roamer (Traversa, Dwyer Stakes, Brooklyn Derby, Saratoga Cup, Saratoga Special, Huron, Empire City, Havre de Grace, Municipal, Excelsior, Brookdale, Carter, Mt. Vernon, Queens County, twice; Saratoga, thrice, Handicaps, etc. 39 wins and \$98,828), The Wanderer, Lorrimer and Rose McGee.

4th dam, Fanny Relph..... by Minting

Fanny Relph also produced Carrara, dam in Germany of the winners Carino (German Jubilee, etc.), Kartasche and Calari.

Thence back to mare by Old Woodcock (No. 18 family).

Race Record: PERCENTAGE was never out of the money at two years winning three races out of six starts including Cincinnati Trophy also third twice including Bashford Manor Stakes. At three he ran second once and third once out of three starts. At four he won six races including Phoenix Hotel, Southmoor Hotel, Bronze Wing, Fontaine Park and Mariemont Handicaps, also ran second 10 times including Latonia Autumn, Falls City, Enquirer and Quickstep Handicaps and third nine times including Clark Handicap. At five he won three races including Pontchartrain and Burgomaster Handicaps, also ran second six times including Covington, Delaware and Mardi Gras Handicaps, also third once. At six he ran second once and third twice. At seven he won six races, also ran second four times and third three times. He also won at eight years.

Stud Record: PERCENTAGE has had very little opportunity. He entered the Stud in 1933 and had 28 registered foals from his first five crops. From these 21 started to date and 16 have won, two others placing. In all, they have won 101 races and \$80,906 to end of 1939. His winners are KNEE DEEP (Cincinnati Trophy, also second in Latonia Autumn, Churchill Downs Handicaps, third in Bashford Manor, Lafayette Stakes, etc.), Geneva M. (eight wins at two, also second in Clipsetta Stakes, Joliet Handicap, etc.), Whim Wham (second in Dearborn Handicap, third in Joliet Handicap, etc.), Centuple (second in Joliet Handicap, third in Chicago Heights Handicap, etc.), Joy Bet, Tenace, Duetime, Sir Isaac, Mo., Southern Miss, Hatty, Perlette, J. Ware, T. Marcus, Sugarage and Parrish Roach.

This is a reproduction of the two pages in the dispersal sale catalog that pertained to Percentage.