

XXXV.—A CEMETERY FOR HORSES.

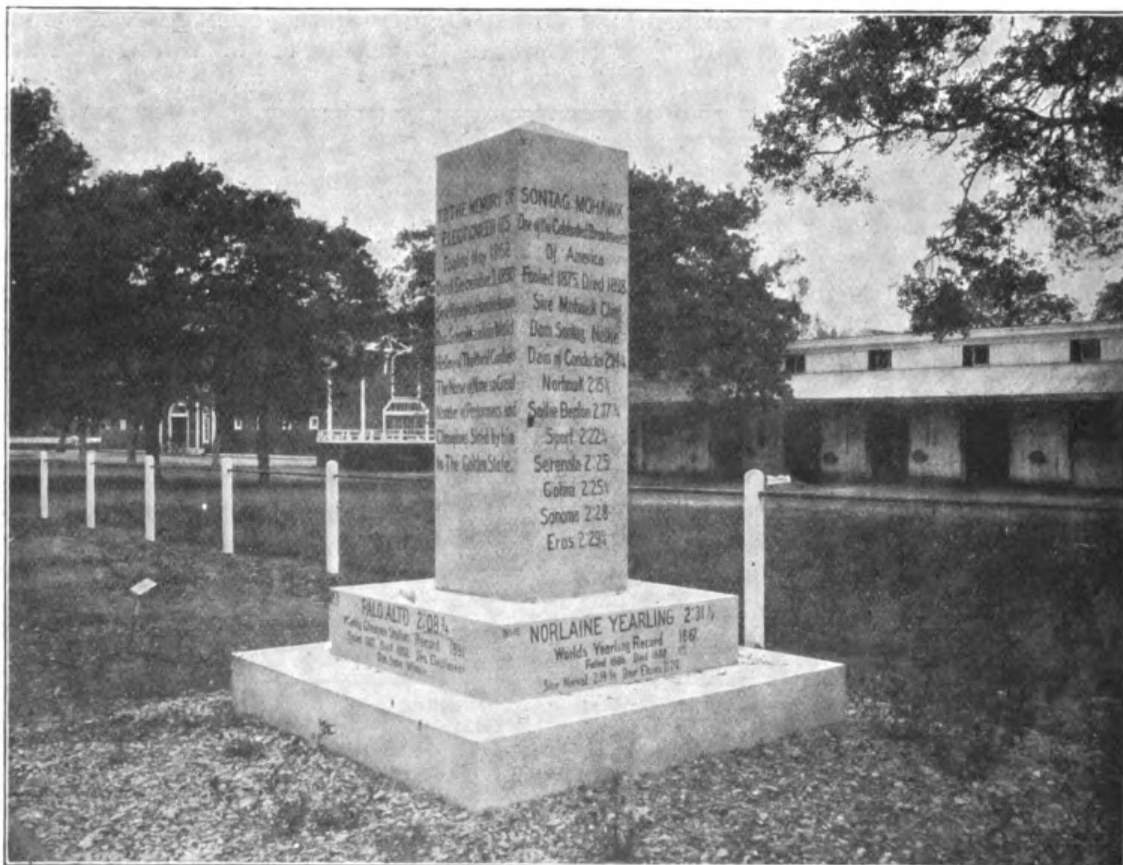
BY HAROLD J. SHEPSTONE.

BOTH London and Paris can boast of their dog cemeteries, but Palo Alto, a little town in the State of California, U.S.A., can go one better in the possession of a burial-ground for horses. Indeed, it is without doubt the most curious cemetery in the world.

Palo Alto is a pretty little town a few miles south of San Francisco, and its unique cemetery is to be found in the famous Palo Alto Stock Farm. Entering the farm by the main road you cannot possibly miss the burying-ground, for one's attention is immediately attracted to it by the tall tombstone

galore and pushed California to the front as a stock-raising State. To the employés about the farm this graveyard is sacred, and when one of the attendants comes to tell you about the wonderful unrecorded deeds of the horses he scarcely speaks above a whisper.

Altogether twelve graves have been laid out in this odd cemetery, but before describing them in detail it is interesting to recall the history of the graveyard. The cemetery was founded thirteen years ago, when several horses of the farm met their deaths by fire. Amongst them was the champion yearling



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THE MONUMENT IN THE CEMETERY.

[C. J. Franklin.

in the centre of a group of wide-spreading oak trees. Here lie interred the remains of several of the record-breaking horses of the farm.

On reaching the spot you are at once impressed by the little row of mounds that rise on either side of the monument. In an instant you realize that you are walking on sacred ground, and as you read the epitaphs on the little headstones you feel like doffing your cap out of respect to the dead animals that during their lifetime smashed records

filly, Norlaine. Norlaine was a beautiful creature, and much prized by the proprietors of the establishment. She once trotted a mile in 2min. 31½sec., and although this is by no means a record there was no horse of her age at the time capable of performing a similar feat. Being a champion and naturally a very valuable creature, the most beautiful spot on the farm was selected for her burial-place. Her remains were interred under the spreading oak trees. A few months later another famous trotting horse died and

was buried close to the grave of Norlaine, so the latter's resting-plot created for all time a memorial burying-ground for the famous horses that die at the Palo Alto Farm.

One by one new graves appeared, and as they grew in number the little mounds attracted the attention of Mrs. Stanford, a wealthy resident of Palo Alto. On inquiry she learned that it was the burial-place of horses that had made Palo Alto great. At that time there was nothing on the graves to indicate to the stranger the name of the horses buried beneath the little mounds. To know in what grave a certain horse was interred it was necessary to

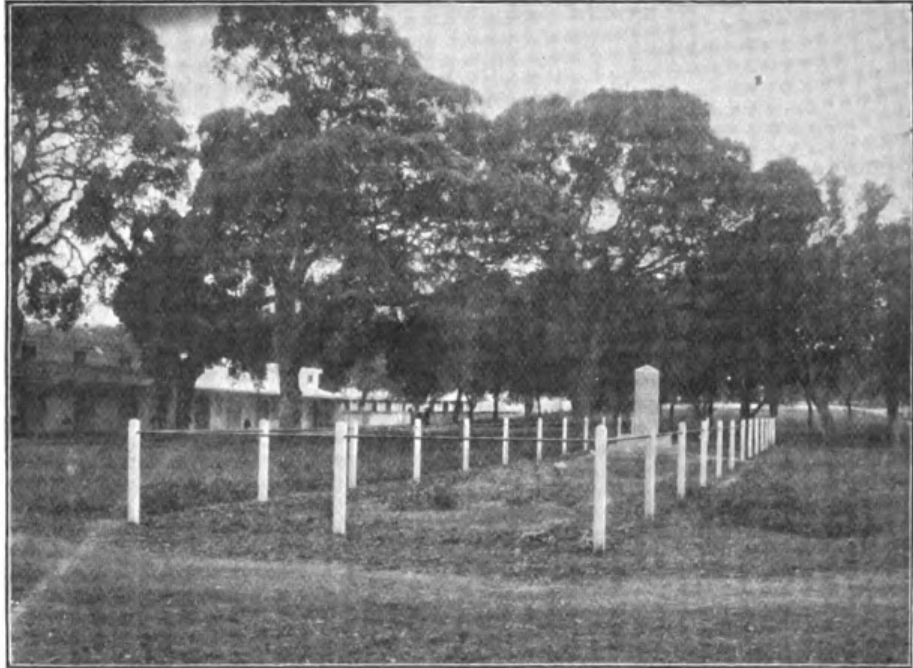
ask one of the employés. Immediately Mrs. Stanford gave instructions that tablets should be placed on all the graves showing the names of the horses, dates of birth, death, and records. She also had a monument erected in memory of the famous trotting horse, Electioneer 125, the son of Rysdyks Hambletonian 10 and Green Mountain Maid. The plot was then lengthened and surrounded by a neat iron rail fence, and some flowers and shrubs planted.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Stanford, who attends to the graves, the writer is enabled to give some interesting facts about the horses whose remains have been interred in this quaint cemetery. First of all, there is the monument to Electioneer 125. The inscription on it reads:—

To the Memory of Electioneer 125.
Foaled May, 1868.
Died December 3, 1890.
By Rysdyks Hambletonian.
Dam, Green Mountain Maid.
History of the World Contains
The Names of None so Great.
Number of Performers and
Champions Sired by Him
In the Golden State.

Although this horse has been dead since 1890 he still has to his credit the largest

number of 2min. 30sec. trotters ever accredited to any sire. At one time his sons and daughters held all the world's records. Here are a few of his most famous offspring: Adbell (yearling), who trotted a mile in 2min.



From a Photo. by]

A GENERAL VIEW OF THE CEMETERY.

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33sec. ; Arion (two-year-old), 2min. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ sec. ; Fantasy (three-year-old), 2min. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ sec. ; and The Abbot, who once covered a mile in 2min. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ sec., the world's trotting record. Many others could be named whose feats have astonished the racing world. The name of Electioneer will live long in the history of the trotting turf as the greatest progenitor of the century just passed.

One of the most curious things about the cemetery is that some of the graves are reserved for the remains of certain fast horses. For instance, no horse has been interred in the first grave, for it is being reserved for the grand old mare, Beautiful Bells, the greatest of American brood mares, who is now twenty-nine years old, but a hale and hearty old lady. Every time she is taken out of the stable she passes within a stone's throw of her intended resting-place. For her last colt the farm were offered £5,500.

Grave No. 2 contains the remains of Sontag Mohawk, one of the celebrated brood mares of America. The tablet on her grave reads: "Sontag Mohawk. Foaled 1875. Died 1898. Dam of Sallie Britton, 2.17 $\frac{3}{4}$, world's champion four-year-old in 1884. She was also dam of Eros, 2.29 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (meaning, of course, that this horse trotted a mile in

2min. 29½sec.); "Sport, 2.22¾; Sonoma, 2.28; Colma, 2.25½; Conductor, 2.14¾; Norhawk, 2.15½; and Serenata, 2.25."

The next grave, No. 3, is a very interesting one, for it contains the flesh only of the famous horse Palo Alto. His skeleton was mounted and set up in the University Museum. Of all the horses owned by the late Senator Stanford, Palo Alto was his favourite. Many fast trotters were sold from the farm for large sums of money, but no price was large enough to tempt the owner to part with this magnificent creature. Palo Alto was the champion stallion of his day. He was foaled in 1882 and died in 1892. He died the king of stallions, and his record, a mile in 2min. 8¾sec., is still the world's record for the high-wheel sulky.

Lying alongside Palo Alto, in grave No. 5, is his mother, Dame Winnie, so in death they are not parted. The tablet on her grave reads: "Dame Winnie. Foaled 1871. Died 1892. Dam of Palo Alto, 2.08¾, the world's record." She not only produced the champion stallion, but also Lone Pine, 2.18; Altivo, 2.18½; Gertrude Russell, 2.23½, by Electioneer; and Big Jim, 2.23½, by Gen. Benton. She was by far the greatest thoroughbred mare producing trotting speed, and died the queen in that respect.

Grave No. 6 is also reserved for the great Elaine, while in No. 7 is buried one of the early brood mares of Palo Alto, the famous Mayflower, who held a mile record of 2min. 30½sec. The inscription on her tombstone is: "Mayflower, 2.30½. Foaled 1864. Died 1895. Dam of Wildflower, 2.21, and Manzanita, 2.16, world's champions." Mayflower in the thirty years of her life proved a remarkable brood mare. She produced eleven daughters, eight of them showing

marked speed. In 1881 her two-year-old daughter electrified the world by trotting a mile in 2min. 21sec., which was the world's record for seven years. In 1886 her daughter, Manzanita, trotted a mile as a four-year-old in 2min. 16sec., the record for that age. Undoubtedly this beautiful animal did her share in making Palo Alto famous as the nursery for producing fast trotters.

The remains of Josie, famous for producing the champion racehorse of his day, are buried in grave No. 9. In grave No. 10 lies the charred remains of Norlaine, who was burned to death at the farm at the age of two years. When only one year old she trotted a mile in 2min. 31½sec. She was the champion yearling of her time, and promised to develop into a phenomenal colt trotter, when her career was cut short by a disastrous fire. It was through her sudden and lamentable death that the horse cemetery sprang into being.

XXXVI.—A WHISTLE BLOWN BY MOTHER EARTH.

THE extraordinary contrivance which we reproduce in the adjoining photograph is probably the most powerful whistle in the world. It is blown by means of a natural gas pressure obtained from Mother Earth herself. The gas "spring" which supplies this unique alarm free of cost is situated at Lawrence, in Kansas, and is used as a fire alarm for the fire brigade. That it fulfils its object right worthily may be guessed by the fact that it may be heard as far as ten miles away, while the sound near at hand is well-nigh deafening. The old gentleman with one hand on the lever of this novel device is a veteran of the local fire brigade, the badge of which can be seen on his coat. We are indebted for this photo. to Mr. Charles W. Kimball, of Lawrence, Kansas.



From *THE STRAND*.—THE NATURAL-GAS WHISTLE. (Photo.)