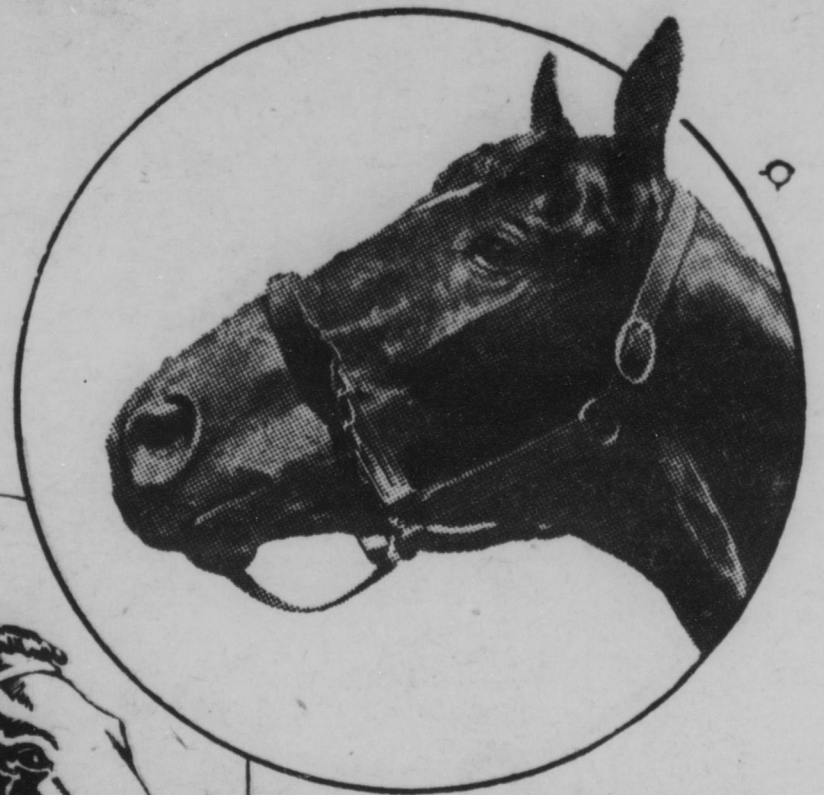


The TRIBE of the SUPER-HORSE

Sold for \$5000 nearly 20 years ago, sturdy Man O' War, sire of the 1937 sensation, War Admiral, has earned more than \$1,500,000 in winnings and stud fees and has produced a truly great line of runners and breeders



Man o' War, from a photograph taken during his racing days.



As a race horse, Man o' War was supreme, winning 20 out of 21 starts. He never paid as good as even money in the betting.

is because the sons and daughters of Man o' War which were born at Faraway Farms at Lexington, where the Riddle "haras" is, all had racing careers of their own.

What sort of horse is this which is

By Max Riddle

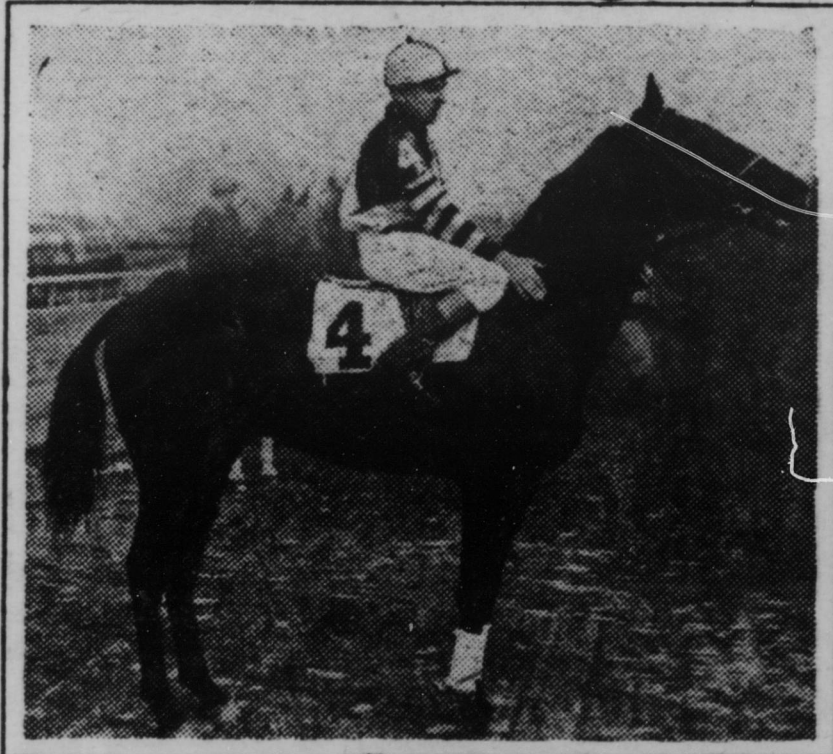
DURING the summer of 1920, a multi-millionaire Texas cattle and oil baron named W. T. Waggoner tendered Samuel D. Riddle a certified check for \$300,000.

"It's for Man o' War," he said.

"Man o' War is not for sale," came the unhesitating answer.

The Texan wasn't a man to be put off when he wanted something. And he wanted Man o' War as badly as he had ever wanted anything. After a moment he got out his checkbook, tore out a blank check, signed it and handed it to Mr. Riddle.

"Fill in your own amount," he said grimly. "The check will be good."



War Admiral, great son of Man o' War, winner of this year's Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont. At right, Fair Play, Man o' War's sire.



The answer still came back: "Man o' War is not for sale."

Later, Samuel D. Riddle told questioners that he was afraid that had he filled in the check for \$1,000,000 the Texan would have called it a deal. And there seems to be no doubt that the Texan would have stuck by his part of the bargain.

The owner of Man o' War, who had bought him for \$5000, was not suffering from a temporary fit of insanity. Neither was the Texan. Nor was Mr. Riddle motivated entirely by the understanding that neither a million dollars, nor 10 times that much, could breed another to equal the son of Fair Play.

Instead he owned, besides an abounding pride in the achievements of his horse, a burning ambition to prove that he would be a success in the stud, to which he was retired in the fall of 1920.

True, he had to gamble that Man o' War would be fertile and that he would live (the good die young, you know), but he was willing to take that gamble.

OF course, you'll ejaculate: "But a million dollars!" Well, here is a little problem in applied mathematics. Man o' War had 256 foals, or about 16 a year. That number does not include the matings which were not fruitful, nor the matings of 1937. His stud fee has always been listed as "PRIVATE CONTRACT" but the well-informed have known that it was \$5000 per mating, with no guarantee of a live foal.

Now naturally many of the mares bred to Man o' War were owned by the Glen Riddle Farms, the "nom de course" of Mr. Riddle. Nevertheless that total of 256 (or more) matings at \$5000 each represents the true earning power of the super horse. That

valued at a million dollars or more, and which can earn \$1,300,000 in stud fees in 15 or 16 years?

Man o' War descends from the strongest of the American male lines, that of imported Australian, a son of West Australian. The male line comes down like this: Sprendthrift, Hastings, Fair Play. All were great race horses. Fair Play had so sensational a stud career that the family is now called the Fair Play line, and in fact he compiled the most enviable record ever achieved by a sire.

Mahubah, the dam of Man o' War, was a daughter of Rock Sand, who was one of the few winners of England's Triple Crown—the Derby, St. Leger, and 2000 Guineas. Rock Sand's mares produced so sensationally to the cover of Fair Play that the mating became known as an "affinity," one line for the other.

Man o' War was bred and named by August Belmont and sold to Mr. Riddle for \$5000 in 1918 as a yearling. As a race horse he was unbeaten, winning 20 out of 21 starts and earning \$249,465.

His one defeat came at the hands of Upset and was the result of an atrocious ride by his jockey. He utterly humbled Upset thereafter. As a three-year-old he was unbeaten, breaking five world records and about 10 records for intervening distances. On one occasion, for instance, he broke his own world's mile record while racing to a longer distance.

He was never once allowed to extend himself for the whole course of a race, he seldom allowed another horse to get in front of him at any point of a race, and he never paid as good as even money in the betting, not even in his first race. On three occasions the odds were 1-100, that is, you had to bet \$100 to win one.

PERHAPS the final proof that a horse is great is his ability to sire horses which can win the great stakes events which he himself has won.

One of the first mares which Man o' War covered was a daughter of Roi Herode named Lady Comfey. She had been imported from England and came of strictly sprinting, or speed, stock. It takes about a year for a colt to be born. Generally, the colt is not named until it is two years old.

Lady Comfey's male foal was, in due course, named American Flag.

American Flag was not a great two-year-old, but he was the best three-year-old of his year. His earnings totaled \$82,000.

The following year an even greater son of Man o' War came along. He was Crusader, a horse perfect to look upon, and perfect in action. Of all of them, he was probably the best.

Crusader was the only horse ever to win the Suburban Handicap twice. In all, he earned the immense sum of \$203,261.

The failure of the tribe as a whole to be great as juveniles has seriously affected the money earnings of the family. Many of the two-year-old specials are richly endowed and they are won by horses which never live up to their earnings by going on where endurance must be added to speed.

And yet the earnings of those which have raced have approximated between \$155,000 and \$165,000 per season. All told they have earned in excess of \$2,000,000, and this does not include their earnings for this season.

Fair Play, the sire of Man o' War, is the only horse in the world's history which has sired six winners of \$100,000 or more. Man o' War is the only other sire to get five winners of that much, and no other horse has got more than three.

Man o' War has been almost equally successful in siring good race mares. Bateau, Edith Cavell, and Florence Nightingale were by Man o' War. And Mata Hari was a daughter of War Woman, by Man o' War. Nellie Flag was a daughter of his great son, American Flag.