

The Little Brown Jug

Do you know what a “pacer” is? I do not mean a student in the Delaware City Schools but a pacer in a horse race.

A pacer is a Standardbred horse that runs with a specific gait. Pacers move the legs on one side of their body in together: left front and rear, and right front and rear. This action shows why pacers are often called “sidewheelers.”

Pacers, which account for about 80 percent of the performers in harness racing, are aided in maintaining their gait by plastic loops called hobbles, which keep their legs moving in synchronization. Due to the sureness of their action, pacers are usually several seconds faster than trotters.



Captaintreacheraus -Pacer of the Year 2020

Elite Equestrian Magazine

<https://eliteequestrianmagazine.com/captaintreacheraus-is-pacer-of-the-year/>

Standardbreds tend to either trot or pace. This breed appears in varying colors, although bay, brown and black are predominant. It weighs between 800 and 1000 pounds.

Colt: A male three years of age or less.

Horse: A male four years of age or older.

Gelding: A castrated male of any age.

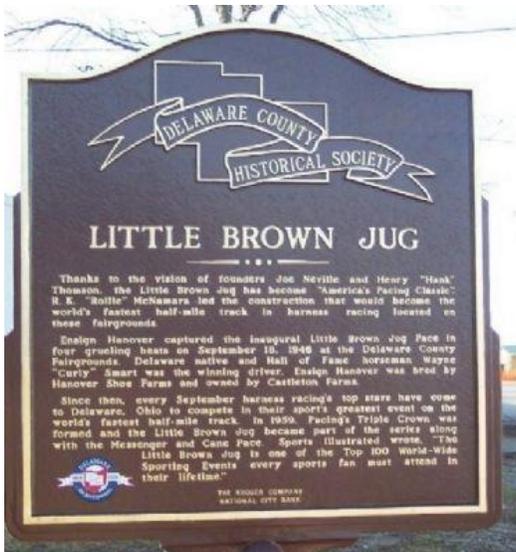
Filly: A female three years of age or less.

Mare: A female four years of age or more.



The Delaware County Historical Society created the **Delaware Little Brown Jug Oral History Project**. You can access Little Brown Jug information here:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=little+brown+jug+oral+history



Thanks to the vision of founders Joe Neville and Henry "Hank" Thomson, the Little Brown Jug has become "America's Pacing Classic". R. K. "Rollie" McNamara led the construction that would become the world's fastest half-mile track in harness racing located on these fairgrounds.

Ensign Hanover captured the inaugural Little Brown Jug Pace in four grueling heats on September 18, 1946 at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. Delaware native and Hall of Fame horseman Wayne "Curly" Smart was the winning driver. Ensign Hanover was bred by Hanover Shoes Farms and owned by Castleton Farms.

Little Brown Jug Harness Race 1970

Since then, every September harness racing's top stars have come to Delaware, Ohio to compete in their sport's greatest



event on the world's fastest half-mile track. In 1959, Pacing's Triple Crown was formed and the Little Brown Jug became part of the series along with the Messenger and Cane Pace. Sports Illustrated wrote, "The Little Brown Jug is one of the Top 100 World-Wide Sporting Events every sports fan must attend in their lifetime."

More Races to Watch:

1965 Little Brown Jug <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMO3VrDRGXs>

Little Brown Jug Races: <http://www.littlebrownjug.com/content/videos.cfm>

Curly Smart

Curly Smart was an born in Ostrander, Ohio and was elected into the Harness Racing Living Hall of Fame due to winning over 1,800 races in his career. He was a trainer and a driver for fifty years. He is particularly noted for his wins at Delaware's Little Brown Jug races. The Delaware Historical Society exhibits a set of his silks and other Little Brown Jug items at the Cryder Research Library. Delaware, Ohio also honored Curly Smart by naming a street after him.

Little Brown Jug History

2020 marks the 75th year of the Little Brown Jug harness race.

The initial Jug in 1946, with a purse of \$35,358, was won by Ensign Hanover with Delaware's Wayne "Curly" Smart driving. Smart, a most successful trainer-driver on the Grand Circuit, was later to become an integral part of the Jug's operation as the track superintendent.

Through its humble beginnings, the Jug grew slowly to become perhaps the most traditional stake on the pacing gait.



A review of Jug winners over the years produces the names of many of the all-time greats in the sport.

The Little Brown Jug, the premier pacing classic for 3-year-olds, provides a fascinating chapter in the more-than-a-century-old history of harness racing and the standardbred sport.

The Jug, enriched by the tradition of the famed Grand Circuit and the picturesque backdrop of the Delaware Ohio County Fairgrounds, steadily maintains the flavor of the sport and competition from the days of its origin.

<http://www.littlebrownjug.com/more/history.cfm>

For more information about the horses and racing:

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<http://www.ustrotting.com>

Arts and Crafts with a Horse Theme



Artist **Deborah Butterfield** makes large horse sculptures of natural found objects such as tree branches. Local Delaware artist Diane Hodges creates similar pieces. Look for them at the Delaware County Cultural Arts Center also known as the Arts Castle.

<https://www.artsy.net/artist/deborah-butterfield>

Make a paper horse -Use this template to create a stable full of horses

<https://tratatuha.com/paper-horse.html>



Make a paper horse that walks on its own!

LINK: <https://frugalfun4boys.com/paper-horse-that-walks/>



Make a Straw Horse

Use straw and yarn to form a horse.



Make a Corn Husk Horse

(from Seneca Indian doll making)

