

The mystique of Hanover—what it means to the world of Standardbred racing—was probably best summed up by one of its own employees, superintendent Hal Jones. “When I went to work for Hanover,” said Jones, “I felt like a kid who had been watching a game through a knothole in a fence, then was suddenly called in to pitch for the first team.”

Had Lawrence Sheppard heard that remark, he would have nodded approvingly. He would have shoved the big hat back on his head, squinted to avoid the smoke curling up from his cigarette, and said, “Goddamn right, that’s what the last fifty years were all about.”

ANNUAL HANOVER YEARLING SALE

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Average</i>
1926.....	6	\$ 1,518	\$ 253
1927.....	6	1,350	225
1928.....	None	None	None
1929.....	15	3,975	265
1930.....	16	4,064	254
1931.....	30	6,090	203
1932.....	32	4,544	142
1933.....	47	20,868	444
1934.....	48	18,528	386
1935.....	34	10,914	321
1936.....	34	17,510	515
1937.....	38	42,294	1,113
1938.....	37	41,825	1,130
1939.....	41	55,750	1,327
1940.....	61	45,800	751
1941.....	74	58,525	791
1942.....	78	34,515	442
1943.....	84	94,250	1,122
1944.....	73	109,200	1,496
1945.....	73	168,575	2,309
1946.....	77	236,800	3,076
1947.....	78	264,900	3,396
1948.....	72	264,800	3,677
1949.....	100	389,550	3,895
1950.....	83	233,350	2,811
1951.....	102	325,200	3,188
1952.....	97	343,400	3,540
1953.....	134	418,950	3,126
1954.....	109	413,650	3,795