

MEMORIAL TO A CHAMPION

In a studio near Chagford in Devon, a memorial is taking shape to one of the greatest racehorses of all time - Hyperion, the 1933 Derby winner. The sculptor - Professor John Skeaping - has been commissioned by the Earl of Derby himself; and he is taking tremendous care to ensure that the statue will be an accurate portrait. To help him, he not only has drawings and photographs of Hyperion, who died last December at the age of 30, he has the actual skeleton of this fabulous winner who in his time has sired hundreds of other winners.

And here we look back at Hyperion's supreme moment, when with Tommy Weston up he left the rest of the field standing to win the 1933 Derby in two minutes, 34 seconds.

His owner Lord Derby was a proud man that year, for Hyperion pulled off the Derby-St. Leger double, only achieved twice before in this century. And now, the present Lord Derby has asked Professor Skeaping to create a memorial worthy of so great a horse. The skeleton from which the sculptor worked will go to the natural History Museum in London. And the statue itself? Where else but the capital of horse racing - Newmarket.