

Barcrest Farms show stable

"We hope to develop a top notch show stable", says Brenda Barr, youthful president of Barcrest Farms, a show horse establishment currently under construction

north of Milton, off Highway 25. With the backing of Barchild Investments and the help of her trainer and general manager Torchy

Millar, National Equestrian Team member, there's no doubt that she'll do it. Barcrest Farm, the former Green Hills Thoroughbred

farm, consists of 200 acres of the most desirable property in the area. Nestled among forested hills on a quiet cul-de-sac, Barcrest spells luxurious and opulent country

living at its most peaceful. Twenty-four horses are already in residence. Most are owned by Montreal equestrians and are trained and shown by Torchy.

Local rider
One horse and rider is a local combination - Elizabeth Wilson of Acton and her mare, Autumn Gold.

The pair are being trained for heavy competition in the abundance of recognized shows.

Elizabeth received the greater part of her riding instruction in England and acquired Gold while over there. Coming back to Canada, Gold and Elizabeth continued their work at Sam-Sen Farms in Hornby under the tutelage of Canadian Team Members Jim Day and Hugh Graham.

The pair shone in schooling shows and are now ready for the stiffer competition of recognized shows, hoping to gain enough points for the Royal Winter Fair.

Arena built
At present, the sizeable barns are being expanded by an addition, housing 50 more box stalls and a 200' by 100' indoor arena.

The current staff of six has been kept busy since early April preparing stables, painting miles and miles of white board fencing, and caring for the existing horses.

Manager Torchy Millar has all he can handle seeing to the care and training of the horses. Stud and farm manager, Andy Thomson, a witty likeable Scot, sees to all the rest.

"The rest" consists of reseeded, cultivating, and cropping the 200 acres, maintaining a small herd of Hereford cattle, overseeing the grounds and outside help generally keeping everything

running smoothly. Brenda takes care of the secretarial work and will be riding some of the horses shortly.

Only Andy lives on the farm. He, his wife and son occupy the beautiful Victorian farm house. A four bedroom apartment for other staff members is being built over the new stables along with a viewing room.

Big stallions
The two stallions are Andy's pride and Joy, Thoroughbred "Gauchesco" is a Chilean stallion and will be campaigned in the show ring by Barcrest Farms. "The best looking Thoroughbred I've ever seen", says Andy of Gauchesco who has won \$120,000 on the race track.

Another big winner is "Swinging Time" a Pacing Standardbred stallion who trots the mile in 1.59 seconds. Out of 300 starts, this stallion has won 55 races totalling \$165,000 in earnings.

Brenda is very proud of her new project - justifiably. Despite her youthful appearance, Brenda is well qualified for the capable running of the farm. Two years training in the States and several years working and instructing at large show stables in Montreal and Toronto have left their mark. "I used to work for Torchy and now he's working for me", she laughs.

Total care
Boarding horses receive total care including exercise and grooming. Stable equipment is all provided and horse blankets are purchased by the management in stable colors of green, blue and white. Brenda feels this eliminates the un-uniform appearance of other stables and the need for many different tack boxes cluttering the tack room.

Owners receive instruction in hunter and jumper showing



ELIZABETH WILSON of Acton schools her horse "Autumn Gold" in the fenced arena at Barcrest. The picturesque farm house, built in 1908, can be seen in the background.



ELIZABETH WILSON of Acton the only local student at Barcrest Farms, receives instruction from trainer Torchy Millar, a National

Equestrian Team member. Elizabeth and her mare, Autumn Gold, are training for hunter classes in recognized shows this season.

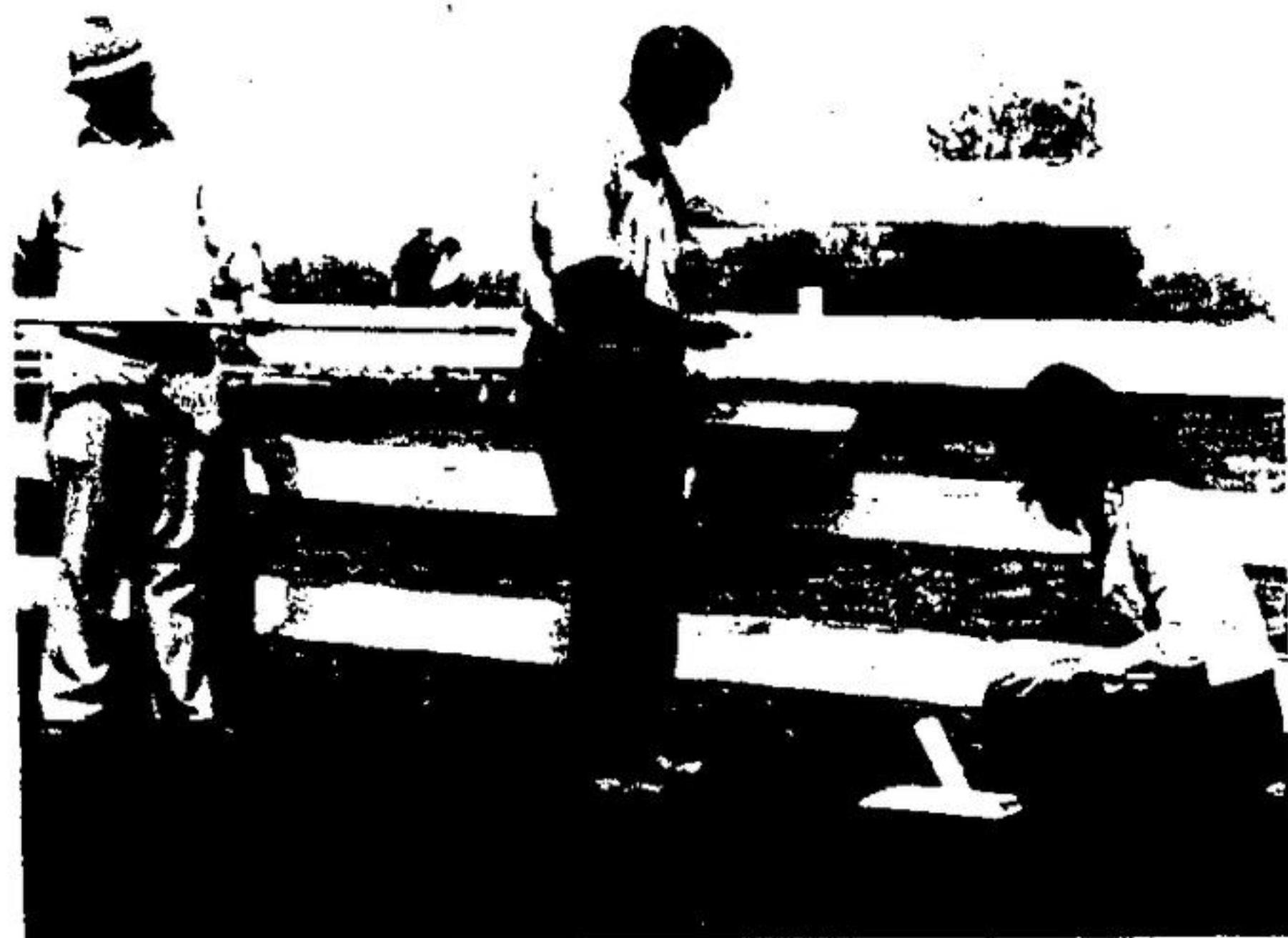
Photos
and story
by
Jennifer Barr



FIRST FOAL at Barcrest Farms, a new show horse establishment, is shown proudly by his owner Brenda Barr. The foal's dam is a well-known Thoroughbred mare "Howdy Chief" and its sire is the famous racehorse "Victoria Park."



"BARCREST" - the first foal at Barcrest Farms in Milton surveys his 200-acre domain. When construction of stables and indoor arena is complete the farm will house 75 of the best show horses in Ontario.



WORKING HARD to complete the job of painting miles of white board fencing are farm manager Andy Thomson, assistant Jouko Piirainen, and

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