

PROFILES

with Jennifer Barr



"I'm just an old horse dealer," Roy Inson says. But he and wife Joan are two of the top Quarter Horse people in the province. The Quarter Horse business wouldn't be where it is today if Roy hadn't had foresight and a gift for promotion 28 years ago.

However, horse dealer he is and has been for 25 years, rejecting the old-time conception that a horse dealer is often a shady flighty gypsy.

"I've been in business 25 years and if you're intending to stay in business you gotta stand behind what you sell," he states.

Show judging team

Horse dealing and Quarterhorse promotion are only two of the Inson activities which have included showing, judging, teaching, training and running a tack shop.

Since moving from their well-known farm, Wynfield, in Georgetown, to a smaller place just south of the Acton Meadows Golf Course, soon to be named Maple Meadows, the Insons have had little time to show horses but their weekends are booked solid with judging events.

One of few husband and wife judging teams, the Insons pack two and three shows a weekend into every month from March to October.

Talking to the Insons has a tendency to make one breathless. The pace they set themselves would kill most people. There's the horses to be cared for; the show stock; the stallions at stud; the newly bought horses; buyers to be accommodated; horse trucking; travelling; judging schedules; farming; building; forever and ever it goes—and that's just Roy's side of the business!

Joan picks up the slack with the horses when Roy's away on a buying trip, takes care of the organization, paperwork, cooking for a number of people who just happen to be there at mealtime; handles her own judging schedule; and answers the always jangling phone.

To top all this Roy has recently gone into the rabbit business producing market rabbits.

Quarter horse promotion

All this frenetic horse activity started around 1951 when Roy, then a young farm-raised lad from Streetsville decided Quarter horses were a very versatile animal and he'd like to ride and show them.

The first time Roy showed he picked the Canadian National Exhibition. The second show was almost as large—at Galt—and Roy won.

While horse showing and dealing kept his days and weekends busy, Roy started the Ontario Rodeo Association and the Ontario Quarter Horse Association to fill up his evenings.

He felt Ontario needed a better class in western horse showing. In the early 50's there were only five shows with any western classes at all. Most western riders in those days rode like drugstore cowboys or on parade horses, explains Roy.

Joan joined the outfit along the trail having met Roy at a horse show. She had been given a horse as a teenager by an uncle and she had supported it by picking worms.

All the time the horse business was growing, Joan kept things on an even keel, needing three legs and four hands to keep ahead of the constant chores, while simultaneously producing and raising three little Insons.

Roy continued his public work to promote the Quarter horse by serving as president of the Western Horse Association for six years and as vice-president of the Canadian Horse Council. He was also one of the five founders of Quarterama, the largest western horse show in Canada.

Wynfield Farm became the home of many famous stallions, among them Poco Fury, Eternal Dial, Flying Sand, Magnolia Sorrel, Nunes Poco Weed and Sugar Joe Reed, still with Roy at 17 years of age. Two famous geldings were right up there in the ranks, too—Blue Hornet, champion cutting horse and part of the British book "Great Horses of the World", and Charlie Buckskin Waggoner, champion games and race horse and first Quarter horse to be shown in Ontario.

Horse dealing changes

The world of horse dealing changed in the early '70's. Roy remarks, and some adjustments were made in the Insons' lives.

Horse showing became too expensive for most people and the price of horse meat went up, raising the price of family pleasure horses out of the reach of a lot of people.

Keeping 125 horses in the barn, buying by the trailer-load from Texas, just was no longer feasible, so the Insons took a long hard look at the business.

The large farm was exchanged for one half the size, horse boarding, teaching, and training were taken out of the family program and show judging took the place of horse showing. Roy is also one of the most popular western announcers in the country.

Selling horses is still the backbone of the business with two or three a week trotting out the lane with their guarantee.

Both Roy and Joan enjoy the cutdown in their activities and love their new home in Acton.

"I just got plain tired," says Roy, sipping his coffee and stretching his legs.

But to the unseasoned eye, it still looks as if this lively couple are leading a 25-hour-a-day life and the horse world will miss them if they ever stop!



Roy and Joan Inson.



Acton High School band hosted the Char-Lan High School band from Williams-town, Ontario as part of a band exchange program. The Acton band travelled to Williams-town in December and this past weekend Char-Lan played at Acton High.

As a finale to the two day stay for Char-Lan the two bands joined forces combining 75 pieces on the stage of Acton High. Together the two groups played both classical as well as modern numbers.

Acton grant If region gives Town will, too

If the region is willing to give Acton Community Services \$900 to keep operating, Halton Hills will consider kicking in the same amount.

Councillors Ed Wood and Russ Miller told council last Tuesday night that a recommendation that the region give community services \$900 would have a better chance of passing if Halton Hills would be willing to give the region-supported organization the same amount.

Councillor Harry Levy warned there is just \$300 left in the grants budget.

If there is no money in the grants budget none should be given by the town, Councillor Pat Patterson declared.

Councillors George Maltby and Wood sponsored a resolution which said if the region put in its half the town would consider giving \$900 to keep the service organization operating through the year. It passed.

Levy and Patterson were incredulous the motion passed since the town only has \$300 grant funds left.

Fires union member....

(Continued from Page 1)

the time workers receive one or two raises a year, while the piece workers get a raise once per year.

Part of Mr. Geng's time on the stand was held in camera, as a protection for the company's financial position. All of his bank manager's testimony was in camera: Bank of Montreal manager Earl Steekley was on the stand for about a half-hour.

Another witness, Superior's sales manager and part-owner, Monty Jackson was also called for about a half-hour.

Union lawyer McNamee indicated he expects to call about ten witnesses.

The hearing continues tomorrow at Toronto.

New school board priority

Acton could have a new separate school within five years.

Sean Briggs, principal of St. Joseph's Separate School told The Acton Free Press a new school was top priority of the Halton Roman Catholic School Board. The list, consisting of six or seven other priorities is a five year plan, the principal said.

Director of Education Byrnes will be speaking with interested parents next Thursday, June 7 at St. Joseph's church hall at 7.30 to discuss the need of a new school.

When the local school opened two years ago, they had less than 100 students. Staff expects

over 200 pupils for the 1979-80 school year, with evidence of the escalating enrolment continuing. They are currently housed in an old stone school house beside Robert Little public school.

Famed musician at Summerfest '79

On Saturday, June 2, local residents will have the chance to listen to one of the finest jazz sounds in Toronto today.

The cool and classy music of Rob McConnell and his Band will highlight the evening entertainment at Summerfest at Acton High School and it should be a must for every serious music lover to attend.

McConnell has led the Boss Brass for over five years and has played with many distinguished and notable people, two being Count Basie and Maynard Ferguson.

He arranged and composed his own material

and is one of the most talented and ambitious musicians now on the Toronto scene.

McConnell and the Boss Brass were nominated

for the Canadian musical award, the Juno, and they have just completed two albums in Germany with the "Singers Unlimited" and the "Hi-

Lo's".

Along with a lot of local talent performing, Rob McConnell and his Band promise a super night of entertainment and fabulous music.

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PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 2, Acton High School, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Come rain or shine! Tickets to day programme available at the gate.

TICKETS TO EVENING PROGRAMME ARE AVAILABLE BEFORE SATURDAY at 877-5407, or at gate.

11 a.m. — Grounds Open

ALL DAY EVENTS

- displays, demonstrations, sales by artists & craftsmen
- door prizes drawn
- refreshments
- entertainment by local groups, Georgetown Choral Society, Georgetown Little Theatre, Acton Citizens Band, Halton Hills Jills, Halton Scottish Country Dancers, Woodgate Irish Dancers and many more

1:00 p.m. Opening Ceremonies — Dignitaries Mayor Pete Pomeroy, Mr. Wm. Kriesel and Mr. Julian Reed — Summerfest Logo Contest Prizes awarded

Evening Programme

- Georgetown Little Theatre
- Georgetown Choral Society
- Halton Scottish Country Dancers
- ROB McCONNELL and HIS BAND plus more!

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Tennis clinic

There will be a tennis clinic held at the Acton Tennis Club, May 30, 7 p.m. Ed Serjeanston will introduce the game of tennis to interested beginners. So if you have ever considered the game, come out May 30 and see what it's all about. Equipment is provided and the evening is free.

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