

Acton kennel's Siberian named top sled dog at Met

The owners of a Siberian husky kennel in Acton returned home from the Metropolitan (Toronto) Kennel Club's recent annual gathering, a highlight of the dog show season, brandishing a first-place rosette that designates one of their huskies Best Sled Dog.

Bob Mills and Steve and Mary Bailey, owners of Lubin Kennels on Main Street north pointed out following the competition that the honor achieved by Evergreen's Hombre, a purebred Siberian, was all the more distinctive because the

Sled Dog show was judged by Dr. Roland Lombard, a Massachusetts veterinarian who is himself considered one of the top three sled dog drivers in the world today.

ALL BREEDS

More than 1,700 dogs of all breeds were entered in the Met's three-day competition, held this year in the Automotive Building at the CNE. The first day of the show, a week ago Friday, was reserved for breed specialties, with the Sled Dog competition capping off a series of events for the Siberian Husky Club of Canada.

According to Steve Bailey, who was handling Hombre in the show, Dr. Lombard spent the better part of two hours studying the four-year old husky's soundness, movement, temperament and attitude as the dog was gaited around the ring, restrained by leash. Mr. Bailey explained that there is no more practical way to evaluate a husky's actual abilities as a sled dog in such competitions.

The upshot of Dr. Lombard's thoroughness was that Hombre was singled out from a

field of 37 huskies, some of which had been brought to the competition from as far away as Alaska, Quebec and Maryland, as the Best Sled Dog in the competition.

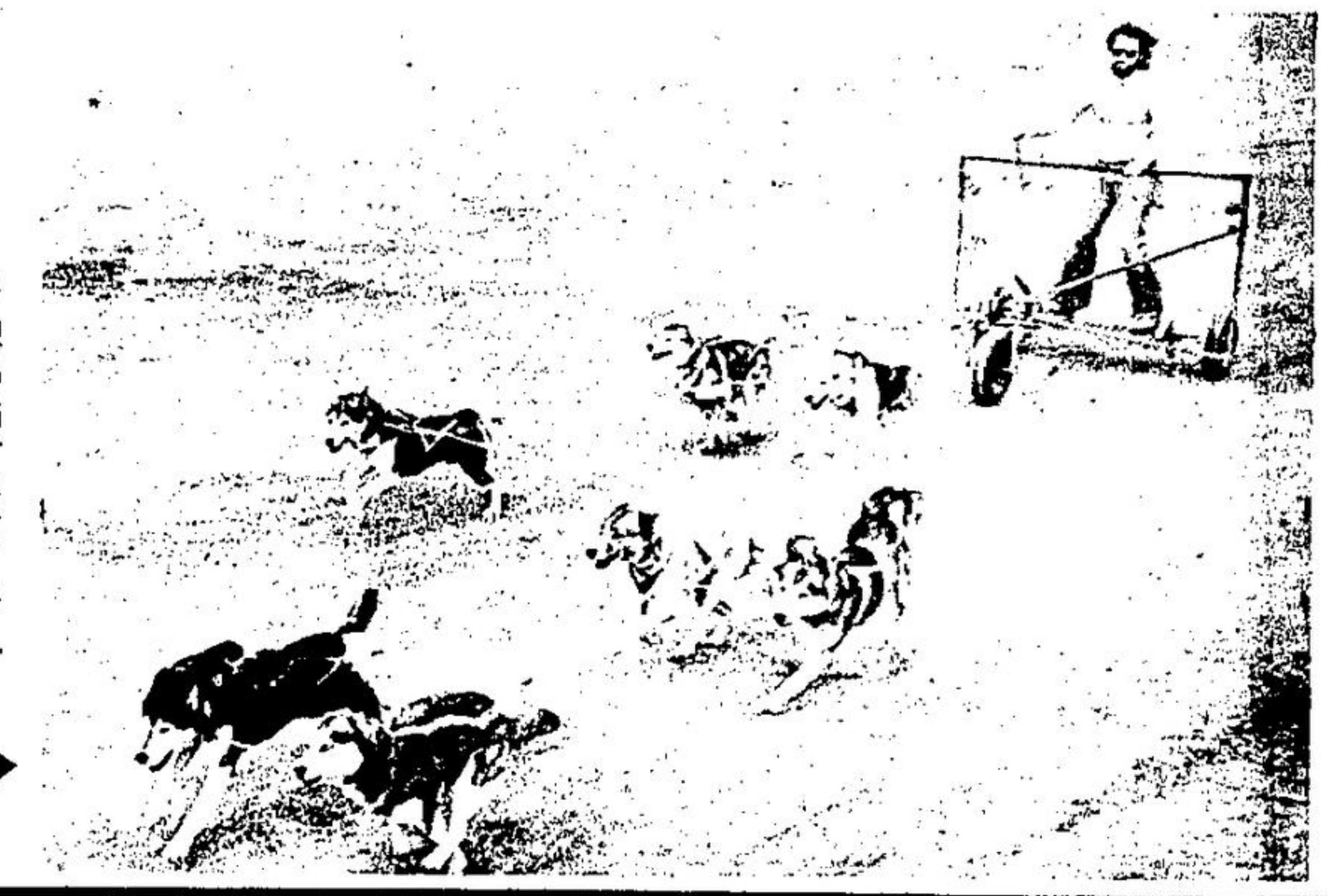
REALLY NUTS

"Hombre is really nuts," Mr. Bailey confided when asked what makes the husky a champion. "He was really bouncy and jumpy in the ring, which is one of the things the judge was looking for. I have some problems when I'm running him (on a sled). He makes

a lot of noise and just doesn't want to stop."

Hombre has been raised since he was a year and a half old by Lubin Kennels, which now claims 24 dogs in all, including four two-week old purebred Siberian puppies sired by Hombre.

Three other Lubin Kennel dogs were entered in the Met show and one of them, Snowsun's Kandu, did "quite well" in the Puppy Sweepstakes, capturing second place in her category.



With a somewhat chaotic burst of enthusiasm, Siberian huskies raised and trained at Lubin Kennels in Acton set off on command for a rollicking ride around a local quarry site. Astride the special summer-weather training rig is Lubin Kennels' co-owner Steve Bailey, who prompts his team to action not with the classic Yukon command "Mush!" but with a simple "Let's go!" (Herald photo)



UNIQUE GIFTS AT OPTI-MRS. BAZAAR

Mr. and Mrs. Wyn Irwin of Milton had a booth displaying jewelry made from paua shells, which come from a shellfish, halotis iris, which is native to New Zealand, at Saturday's Opti-Mrs. Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale. (Herald photo)

Pomeroy tops Hill

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his 12 years in municipal politics. "As for the rest of my term, I'm just going to run a clean council and hand it over to (Coun. Pomeroy)."

Mayor Hill said that he had hoped to be re-elected so he could settle two main issues facing Georgetown citizens - the Focal Properties Ltd. development proposal and the provision of improved library facilities - as well as convincing the citizens of Acton that regional government will ultimately be of great benefit to them.

Mayor Hill added that he has no immediate plans for the future and is not entertaining thoughts of entering federal or provincial politics. He also said he is not considering

trying for the soon-to-be-vacant post of regional chairman. Eleanor Hill, the mayor's daughter and a key figure in his campaigns, expressed pride in both her father's years of service to the area and in his

sincere efforts to be re-elected. "I don't think you'll ever find anybody who'll tell it like it is the way he does," she said. "He ran a clean campaign. My image of Dad is that he's always been a gentleman."

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