

Two champions at Royal Winter Fair

Gateway Farms is thoroughbred showplace

By Roy Downs

When Roy and Patricia Kennedy set out to establish a showplace for thoroughbred horses on a Highway 25 farm near Speyside, they went at it in a big way.

First they bought the house and a small acreage near Esquesing's 10 Sideroad that formerly belonged to V. T. Barber, then they purchased the neighboring Davenport farm to give them almost 130 acres complete with two homes, two barns and plenty of leg room for their horses.

Then they set about transforming that 130 acres into pastures and corrals, and it took a heap of earthmoving machinery to do it. Then they lined it with fences, carved roads out of cow trails, began renovations on the two existing barns and constructed a new \$100,000 barn complete with stalls, workrooms, office and an indoor arena.

A showplace "It's going to be a showplace when we are done, but there is a lot of work to be done yet," said Mrs. Kennedy.

The Kennedys hope to improve

the quality of Canadian race horses and if such a superb layout, coupled with their highly selective breeding stock can bring about the improvements they are seeking, they are well on their way to doing just that. Horses are what Gateway Farms, Inc. is all about.

The Kennedys proved the quality of their horses at the recent Royal Winter Fair where they claimed six awards—five firsts and one second—among them the grand champion stallion, grand champion mare and Governor General's Cup for the mare championship. The

Governor General's cup is the most prestigious award a three-year-old can win and filly Nearly A Monarch brought them that great honor when she won the judges' nod at the Royal.

Train as hunter

Unraced at two and showing little promise in five starts this season, Nearly A Monarch had her career re-assessed (especially in light of this major win at the Royal) and will now go into training as a conformation hunter. It was the third try at the coveted cup for Gateway Farms and third prize was the closest

they had ever been before.

The horse which won the stallion class is another good reason the Kennedys feel they can upgrade the quality of Canadian race horses. Pollux is his name and he's a beautiful big animal besides being a rugged stakes winner of 22 races and a total of \$158,538. Pollux is now standing at stud at Gateway with a 1971 fee of \$1,000 live foal.

To import stallion

Another way Gateway Farms could inject some new blood into Canadian thoroughbreds is through a Bold Ruler stallion they hope to bring to Canada from the United States. Bold Ruler is "the" magic name in breeding and the sons and daughters of the 17-year-old horse (owned and campaigned by the Wheatley family) are demanding premium prices at the sales. Mr. Kennedy hopes to syndicate a Bold Ruler stallion in Canada—negotiations are underway now.

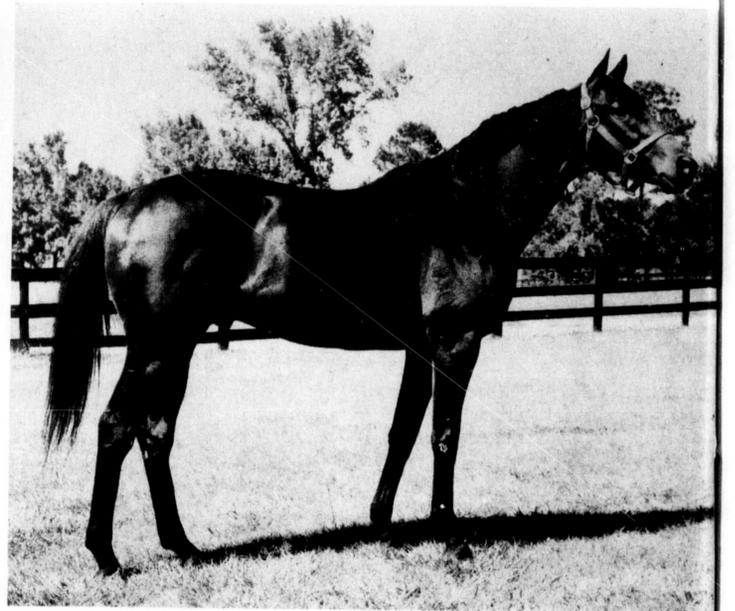
In Florida, where the Kennedys first established Gateway Farms, Inc., they are in a syndicate which has O'Hara, a stallion bred to be a "classic" sire. A winner of over \$200,000, at the track, O'Hara was syndicated for over a quarter of a million dollars and there are plans to bring him to Canada in the near future.

Originally from Toronto, the Kennedys established Gateway Farms in Florida on 200 acres of land north of Ocala several years ago. He is a condominium developer working out of Toronto. Last spring they dispersed 28 horses in Florida for \$350,000. In July they moved to the farm near Milton and started the great construction program.

Total of 53 stalls

A small stable near their home houses four horses in large stalls and the old Davenport barn, built in 1891 and still sound, is being converted to handle 26 more stalls. The new barn has room for 23 stalls and is probably going to be the neatest layout in the county. Although still incomplete it is already occupied by 20 brood mares brought here from the States.

Despite the flurry of activity around their new layout in North Halton, the Kennedys maintained the Florida farm where they have some yearlings getting ready to race next year.



AND THIS IS POLLUX, a beautiful six-year-old standing at stud at Gateway Farms, Inc. north of Milton. Pollux was grand champion stallion at the Royal Winter Fair and has won 22 stakes races and a total of \$158,538. in four seasons at U.S. tracks. —(Photo by Jim Jernigan).



Ask consideration recreation reps

Esquesing Council are asking Acton, Georgetown and Milton to consider allowing the township representatives on the towns' recreation committees.

The township set a precedent earlier in the year by providing donations to each of the committees to help cover the cost of minor hockey players from Esquesing using facilities in the towns.

A letter of thanks from Acton Parks and Recreation Committee, read at Monday's

council meeting, prompted deputy-reeve Tom Hill to bring up the matter of representation. The Acton letter welcomed suggestions from council on improvements in the town's recreation program.

Appearing before council early in 1970 to request a donation, Acton Parks and Recreation Committee chairman Peter Marks mentioned the possibility of allowing Esquesing representation.

GRAND CHAMPION MARE and winner of the Governor General's Cup at the 1970 Royal Winter Fair, a three-year-old filly named Nearly A Monarch made her owners feel like monarchs. Governor General Roland Michener presented his cup to Mrs. Patricia Kennedy while the winning mare looked on. "This was about the nicest thing that could have happened to me, as far as show horses are concerned," said Mrs. Kennedy. She and her husband Roy have purchased the former Barber and Davenport farms on Highway 25 near Speyside where they have built a large new barn complete with indoor arena, and plan some selective breeding to inject new quality in Canadian thoroughbreds. —(Photo by Douglas Crawford)



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