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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Feats recalled of racing great

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APPOINTMENT OF Dr. Hammond Kelly this week as provincial director of veterinary services reminds me that the doctor's grandfather, for whom he was named, was one of the Maritimes' best known horsemen when I was a boy.

Colorado L and Dunholm are two of the horses I recall that Hammond Kelly drove with outstanding success. But I went to the dean of Maritime horsemen, Lt. Col. D. A. MacKinnon for an authoritative view.

Col. MacKinnon agreed my choices were good but Mayor Todd was "the greatest horse" the late Mr. Kelly ever owned. The Colonel was talking of the Todd horse's success as a sire as well as his outstanding racing ability. Kelley purchased him back around 1938, the Colonel recalls, at an Old Glory sale in New York and thereby hangs a tale.

Horseback Ride Through N.Y.

"HAMMOND AND I each bought a horse at the sale and we had to ride them several miles through New York to the docks where we loaded them on a ship for Halifax". It was an unforgettable experience, he recalled this week as he chatted about some past experiences.

The Colonel's horse, Petcello, was a youngster with potential greatness because a maternal half-sister had trotted the fastest mile in the U.S. that year – 2:02 was really fast in those days – and she had also been the leading money winner. But the ability didn't rub off on the MacKinnon colt and "he proved a dud" for the popular Charlottetown man who trained and raced some of the best in the business.

I NEVER had the privilege of knowing Hammond Kelly, but he was one of my boyhood favorites, whose feats I followed through the sport pages of that time. I was glad to have Col. MacKinnon tell me "You can't say anything too good about Hammond".

Outstanding horsemen seem to run in the Kelly family. Lorne Kelly is a son and Walter a grandson. Their feats speak for themselves. Lorne is the doctor's father.

The late Willard Kelly was another son who had many good horses. But the unforgettable Millie Kalmuck, I think, was the alltime favorite in his stable.

Wild Ducks Answer Feeding Call

READERS WILL recall last week's feature page carried pictures of wild ducks being fed on the ice at the Milltown sanctuary by Brent Moore. I was there when Jim

Cudmore kept his camera shutter clicking as the grain was thrown out, but the amazing thing to me was the way the wild birds responded to Brent's call.

We had talked for sometime with Brent and his charming mother in the Moore home when Jim asked Brent if he could call the birds down near the house for a picture. Brent suggested the birds might not be able to hear him as they would be from one-quarter to one-half mile up stream at the head of the pond, with a bit of woods in between, and there was a brisk wind blowing.

BUT THEY came out of the woods in twos and threes, at first, then by the half dozen, and finally in larger lots as Brent kept calling them. It's probably old stuff to nearby residents but to me, seeing it for the first time, it was an unforgettable experience.

THE DUCKS - there were one or two geese - were squatted on the ice all around Brent. They were as tame as chickens until Jim or I tried to get too close and they lifted into the air. But they returned almost immediately as soon as we moved back a bit.

P.E.I. Sires In A.I. Battery

POLLED HEREFORDS are being featured in the artificial breeding battery at Fredericton which is used in our artificial insemination program here on P.E.I. and Highland Bray Ace's Lad is one of the horned sires dropped. He is the son of The Ace, that was bred on a ranch in the southern U.S. - I think it was in Texas - and bought from the late W. A. Crawford-Frost at Nanton, Alberta by the P.E.I. Hereford Breeders Club. Ace's Lad was bred by Tom and Miller Sanderson, North River.

But they are at least three other P.E.I. sires in the unit now. Two of them were bred on the Diamond Hill Holstein farm of Oswald J. Newson and Son, Kingston and the latest is Diamond Hill Supreme.

Most recent P.E.I. sire to go to the unit is Chestnut Royal Technicolor, grand champion Dual Purpose Shorthorn at Toronto for Daniel Jewel. Dr. D. G. Moore, who is in charge of the unit, has high praise for the former North River bull who is one of "the best handling animals" in the battery.

Calf Vaccination Stressed Again

AGRICULTURE department people here are disturbed because P.E.I. cattlemen have been slipping back on vaccinating their calves against Bangs Disease which is contagious abortion. Deputy Minister S. C. Wright tells me that the 705 calves vaccinated last year was a drop of 305 from the 1959 figure and that's getting nowhere fast in this important business..

Livestock Director L. W. Roper suggests that too many of our cattlemen are living in a false sense of security. Island herds have been free of the disease for so long and province-wide tests have proclaimed it a "disease free area" from Bangs, that too many farmers think it can't happen to them.

BUT THE thing can spread rapidly if it ever gets a foothold. It spreads much faster than TB, says Mr. Roper who told me of an Ontario man who hadn't had a live calf in his stable for 18 months. Vaccination has been compulsory in Ontario for the past several

years but agricultural department people here are hoping that compulsory measures will not be necessary.

The recommendation is that calves be vaccinated between the ages of 6 months and 9 months. And it is necessary for export. Grade animals should be done as well as pure breds, it is urged.