

Lauxmont Farms makes strides in Sta

BY SHEILA MILLER
WRIGHTSVILLE — After over 10 years of following and studying the Standardbred horse industry, Lauxmont Farms, a 1400 acre spread located here, has emerged as one of the leading new names in the race horse business.

While many of the long established names in Pennsylvania's largest horse industry are pulling up roots and heading for New York

and New Jersey, Ronald Kohr, owner and president of the York County show place, has decided to start into the Standardbred breeding business.

Kohr, known throughout the livestock industry for his Chianina and Hereford cattle, explained that the move to Standardbred horses will allow his scenic property overlooking the Susquehanna River to be utilized to the fullest.

His first attempt to break into the highly competitive industry came in 1969 with the purchase of a Tar Heel mare at the Harrisburg sale.

"I sold her first foal and kept the second. That's when I started getting serious.

"I studied the sale results from the one held in Harrisburg and one in Lexington, Kentucky. And I watched the prices of yearling Standardbreds keep going up over the

years. Even when the cattle market was dropping, the horse market kept going higher every year."

Kohr recalled that he first started buying in earnest in 1978. Now, he has 91 head roaming the pastures of his Wrightsville farm or in training in Ohio, North Carolina, and Florida.

The success of Kohr's horses on the track and the effectiveness of trainers such as Wendall Jones Jr., Dick Buckston, George Sholty, and Glen Garnsey are spelled out in a winning way.

Last year, Jones, a former saddlehorse trainer, took eleven 2-year-olds to start, and raced six, including Armbr Vanguard, by Speedy Crown out of a Star's Pride mare Sparma Hanover; Allurement, by Noble Gesture out of Really Something; and Foliage, by Race Time out of Meadow Helene. These three horses captured nine stakes in 1979.

Foliage went on to claim the honors of National Season's Champion Pacing Filly. In her short racing career, Foliage set a world record for pacing by racing in 1:49.1 — knocking three seconds off the previous record, according to Kohr.

Unfortunately, her racing career came to an abrupt halt after she cracked a

sesamoid bone after a race. She has been retired to the pastures at Lauxmont and is in foal to Bret Hanover. She is booked to the popular Niatross.

Kohr is rightfully proud of his national champion and his other winning Standardbreds that call Lauxmont Farms home. He just recently completed the remodeling of the barns to accommodate these valuable animals.

The barn was originally built by S. Fory Laux (after whom the farm was named) in the early 1930's to house dairy cattle, said Kohr. It was a loose housing setup with automated milking, far ahead of its time, he explained. He noted that the barn was written up in the National Geographic magazine in either June of 1942 or 1945.

The farm, with its hog, sheep, dairy, and turkey facilities, changed hands after the death of Laux in 1942. The second owner, Dr. George T. Pack from New York, had a Guernsey operation at the farm until 1972.

During those 30 years the facilities were allowed to deteriorate after Pack found farming was not a get-rich-quick enterprise, said Kohr. He said with regret that the doctor's foreman did not

have the foresight to see the benefits of the loose housing, and remodeled the barns with stanchions and manure gutters.

Now, the barns have had a second face-lift and a cream-colored coat of new paint. Oak boards from trees cut on the farm have been planed, sanded and varnished and used for box stalls. Clay has been hauled in to cover the concrete floors. And brass knobs adorn the iron bars that stretch across the oak boards.

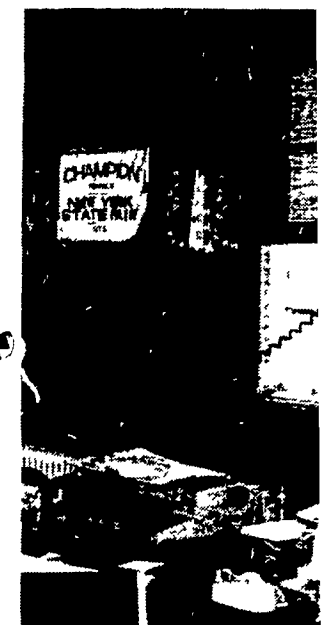
An exercise lot and glass-fronted viewing area will provide potential buyers a luxurious environment to watch the Lauxmont Farms' yearlings run, unhampered by lead ponies. And 22 miles of board fence, coated with an asphalt paint shipped in from Kentucky, bound the 1000 acres of pasture. Kohr noted each locust post in the fence was cut on the farm. Classy accommodations for the classy horses.

In the future, Kohr said he hopes to keep about 300 horses on the farm.

"I'm excited about turning this farm strictly into a Standardbred breeding farm. This part of the state has always been a great area for horses. And, in our case, our hilly pastures are a terrific asset because it makes the horse exercise."

One stud, Tarport Adios will be standing in Wrightsville, while the other Lauxmont studs will be kept on the farm in New Jersey.

The reason for the New Jersey stud farm, said Kohr, is because the Pennsylvania stakes are "very poor." At \$2,100,000, the Keystone State's Sire Stakes fall well below those of New York, at \$7,200,000, New Jersey, at \$7,000,000, and Ohio, at \$5,000,000.



Ronald Kohr takes his wife, Laura, and his son to the farm from 9 to 21.



Doug Wert, of York, applies TLC when working with Lauxmont Farms' national champion pacing filly, Foliage. The top racing filly takes it easy now at her Wrightsville home, carrying a foal sired by Bret Hanover.

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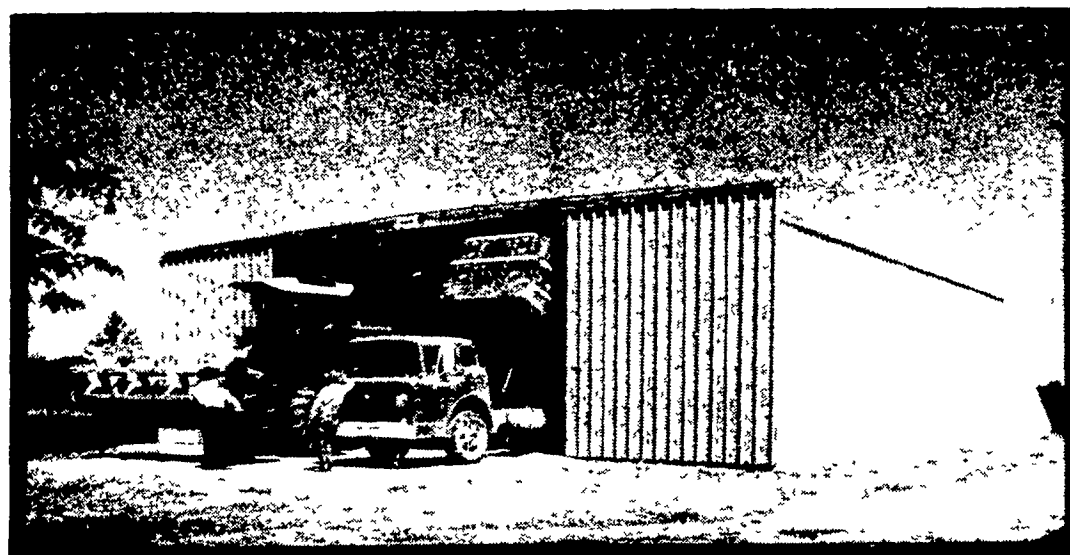
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