

Tyrolese Horses Tried Out In This Country In New Illinois Area Home

SPRING GROVE, Ill. (UPI) — A herd of sturdy little mountain draft horses frolics today on rolling meadows far from the rocky slopes of their native Tyrolese Alps. They are immigrants of note in the equine world — the first of their breed to be imported to America.

The horses — nine mares, three colts and a stallion — are chestnut-colored, fiery-eyed Haflingers, a breed developed 100 years ago by mating husky little mountain mares with noble Arabian stallions.

The 13 "immigrants" were purchased in Austria and brought to northern Illinois recently by Temple Smith, a Chicago electronics manufacturer, and his wife Esther.

The Smiths aren't trying to buck a trend that has seen the nation's number of farm houses slide from an all-time high of 16,528,000 in the boom days of horse-drawn equipment to fewer than 3,500,000 in this era of the tractor.

"Horses are just a hobby to day," Mrs. Smith said as she led the way to a grassy, wooded lot where the mares grazed at the Circle Z Farm.

She said her husband intends to breed and sell Haflingers, use them as mounts for children, hitch them to colorful Austrian-made carts and wagons for farm chores, and perhaps display them at the International Livestock Exposition and other horse shows.

Introduction of the breed to the United States set up an interesting experiment in how a horse's environment affects its conformation and temperament.

"We wonder whether the Haflinger will change type — perhaps grow taller," Mrs. Smith said.

The Smiths' horse master, Leo Lightner, said "only time will tell." He said the Haflinger, built originally from relatively short stock, has been dwarfed and toughened by life in the high Tyrol.

As a foal and young horse, the Haflinger ranges without cover over poor mountain pastures, at 5,000 to 7,000 feet altitude. The grown horse is used throughout the year as a work animal on mountain farms and logging camps and as a pack horse in the high country.

The Haflingers at the Smith farm stand about 14 hands high (a hand is four inches). They're longer than they are tall, and almost as compact as an Aberdeen Angus steer. With their rare double manes, flowing white tails and feathery fetlocks, they look something like a half-pint Clydesdale.

Their Arabian ancestry has given them a lively temperament that makes them good saddle and harness horses. Yet, Mrs. Smith said, most of them are so gentle that children can handle them.

To show how easily they handle, Lightner hitched up the prize stallion, Starwonder, which was bought from the Austrian state stud farm at Innsbruck, and drove him around the farm lot. It was only the second time Starwonder had been in harness, the horse master said, but he handled almost like a veteran.

Then grooms hooked up three-year-old mare Jeremia, who never before had felt the weight of a harness on her back, and an older mare, Edelgut.

Jeremia sidled into the outside tug a few times, cocked an eye across to see how Edelgut was meeting the situation, then took the bit and padded along obediently.

Along with his other duties, Lightner is teaching inexperienced grooms the rudiments of horsemanship and such German terms as "schritt" (or "walk") and "sehr brave" ("very good").

"It's easier to Germanize the grooms than to Americanize the Haflingers," he said.



CAREFUL-PRUNING with a machete or ax is the answer to a perfect Christmas tree. Here Ken Bishop, co-owner of the Ken-Dell ranch, demonstrates the way a tree is pruned up to produce a perfect specimen. A great deal of trial and error learning has gone into the huge Christmas tree operation lying near Tennant.



A BUCKET LIFT is a useful tool when it comes to pruning in the field. This rig is mounted on a surplus half track and features a 30-foot boom with a bucket on the end in which the operator stands. Controls allow him to swing the bucket to each side and to raise and lower it. Jutting out of the bucket are a power saw and trimmer, driven by air pressure. This rig is on the Ken-Dell Christmas tree ranch at Tennant.

Four Parts Gin, One Part Vermouth And Stir Gently For Good Martini

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — Astory goes, a turn-of-the-century good martini is hard to find and The Lower Montgomery Street Olive or Onion Society is trying to do something about it.

The society was formed in 1951 "dedicated to the propagation of good martinis and the education of bartenders."

It was started by eight businessmen who toil on lower Montgomery Street, the Wall Street of San Francisco. They were discouraged with the quality of their cocktails and began a drive to make martinis as uniform and tasty as possible so that a fellow with a thirst could step into any bar and not be disappointed.

The ranks of the society have never exceeded 40 men, possibly because new members are required to drink a pint-sized goblet of martinis as their initiation into the ranks.

After a great deal of "pure research" and 33 different mixtures, the society established itself as something of an authority on the martini. Here is its current prize recipe:

One part domestic vermouth; four parts domestic gin; pour in order into pre-chilled, ice-filled shaker, stirring gently not more than 30 seconds; serve with olive or onion.

Barney Vogel, archives director, says the society doesn't claim its mixture makes the finest martini, but it does guarantee the most consistently good one. This is because of the more stable quality of domestic liquor, he said.

"However, we don't let the status quo rule," he added. "Every year we try all brands, domestic and imported, and decide on selections. We've changed brands many times and once had an imported vermouth."

As archives director, Vogel claims that the martini was invented in San Francisco. As the

commuter habitually stopped at a certain waterfront bar and asked for a gin and vermouth.

"Mix it quickly," he instructed the bartender, "I have to catch the ferry to Martinez."

Today this unknown pioneer is immortalized in Martinez by an unofficial city flag—a silver cocktail glass with a bent stem on a field of royal blue.

SO, WHAT'S HIS COMPLAINT? MANCHESTER, Conn. (UPI) — Joseph Schoen won a divorce after testifying that his wife hadn't said a word to him for six years.

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RELAXING THE RULES CORTLAND, N.Y. (UPI)—Sponsors of a frog race relaxed the rules a little when they realized a state law might cut down on the number of entrants. A conservation statute says frogs can be taken into captivity only between June and September. So the Cortland Youth Bureau decided that any youngster who hadn't bagged a frog during the season could enter his pet turtle in the competition instead. Separate prizes were offered in each category.

ONCE FOR ALL WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass. (UPI)—Prof. Frederick L. Schuman of Williams College sends one greeting card a year to each of his friends. Every summer, Schuman wishes them a Merry Christmas, "last and next," a Happy New Year, "last and next," and greetings for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and "any other holiday you are of a mind to celebrate."

BIG POT GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (UPI)—Kent County dog pound manager Raymond Mathews, county controller Leonard V. Andrus and county supervisor Bernard Barto recently staged a weight-reducing contest. They each put up \$25 with the total going to the one who lost the most weight in a month. Mathews, who took off 40 pounds, winding up at 264, was the winner. Andrus lost 25 pounds and Barto 16.