

Articles on the Block Barn in the Cuba Patriot and Free Press, 1941-49, p. 1

Cuba Patriot and Free Press, Thursday, April 10, 1941, p. 1.

To Occupy Simpson Farm With McKinney Stable

Kit Biddle of Bolivar, formerly of Kentucky, who has occupied the stable at the Empire City Farms since December, has about 12 saddle horses there and is continually adding to that

number. Much interest is shown by various owners. Mr. Biddle will soon make use of the entire farm, under what The Patriot understands to be a long-term lease.

Cuba Patriot and Free Press, Thursday, July 16, 1942, p. 1.

Horse Show will be held Here Sunday

Cuba, once famous in horse racing circles as the home of the two sires McKinney and Axworthy, may again take its place in the horse world if the first annual Empire Horse Show, scheduled to start Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock, proves a success.

Planned originally as an Old Home Week feature, the committee today announced it would be carried out despite cancellation of the Old Home Week Celebration.

Kit Biddle and Son, trainers and developers of saddle horses for many years, two years ago leased the Empire City Farm's block barn on South Street, built as a home for McKinney, 2:11¼. Saddle horses from all parts of Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania have been sent here for training and keeping and it is with this stock as a

nucleus that the show was started, although there will be entries from Rochester, Buffalo and other cities in Sunday's show.

The program calls for 15 events, children's horsemanship for riders under 15 and over 15, egg and spoon race for ladies, musical stall race, three-gaited saddle horse, five-gaited saddle horse, colts, amateur jumpers, model three-gaited saddle horses, Gay Ninety class, lead line class for children, mares and colt, Western trail horses and pleasure hack.

Robert Sloan will act as judge, Russell Sondhei as ringmaster. The committee in charge is headed by Stanton Wilson as chairman, Helen Meridan, Herbert Lester, Virginia Oddue and Elma Wiggons.

Cuba Patriot and Free Press, Thursday, July 23, 1942

Empire Horse Show, Held Sunday, Was Outstanding Success Despite Floods Which Swept Areas

Despite Sunday's flood, which kept many exhibitors and horses from reaching Cuba and had the man-power of unaffected areas in rescue work, the

first annual Empire Horse Show was considered an outstanding success.

More than 50 horses competed or were shown in the 15 events of the afternoon and evening program and

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many more remained in their stalls when owners were unable to reach Cuba. There were over 400 paid admissions at the gates.

Indications now point to a continuation of the show, backers believing the attendance would have passed the 1000 mark under normal conditions.

Prizes and ribbons were given first place winners, second and third places receiving ribbons.

The list of winners, with names and horses follow:

Class 3--Children's horsemanship for riders under 15--1, Gloria Brown, Olean, "Royal Canote"; 2, Barbara Butts, Cuba, "Lindy"; 3, Robert Conkling, Olean, "Little Buck."

Class 8--Children's horsemanship for riders over 15—1, Nancy Kinnie, Penn Yan, "Red Cherry"; 2, Janet Weidman, Olean "Golden Locust"; 3, Naomi Irwin, Bolivar, "Lindy."

Class 9—Egg and spoon race for ladies—1, Janet Weidman, Olean, "Golden Locust"; 2, Mrs. Stanton Wilson, Bradford, "Buddy"; 3, Mrs. Frank White, Bradford, "Harlan."

Class 13—Musical stall race—1, Orville Shook, Limestone, "Sandy"; 2, Newton Phillips, Wellsville, "Queenie"; 3, Robert Conkling, Olean, "Little Buck."

Class 6—Three-gaited saddle horse—1, Nancy Kinnie, Penn Yan, "Red Cherry"; 2, Helen Meridan, Olean, "Cuba Libre"; 3, Barbara Butts, Cuba, "Lindy."

Class 10—Five-gaited saddle horse—1, Mrs. Stanton Wilson, Bradford, "Buddy"; 2, John Young, Wellsville, "Betsey"; 3, L.L. Barlber, Olean, "Rusty."

Class 5—Yearlings—1, Joan Embser, Wellsville, "Happy Find"; 2, Anderson Biddle, Cuba, "The Earl"; Two-year-olds—1, Herbert Lester, Olean, "Our Delight"; 2, Anderson Biddle, Cuba, "Cloud."

Class 4—Amateur jumpers—1, Newton Phillips, Wellsville, "Lindy"; 2, Gloria Brown, Olean, "Royal Canote"; 3, Anderson Biddle, Cuba, "Royal Mail."

Class 1—Model three-gaited saddle horse—1, Helen Meridan, Olean, "Cuba Libre"; 2, Nancy Kinne, Penn Yan, "Red Cherry"; 3, Barbara Butts, Cuba, "Lindy."

Class 2—Model five-gaited saddle horse—1, Chris Biddle, Cuba, "Dual Chief"; Joan Embser, Wellsville, "Lady Belle"; 3, Janet Wiedman, Olean, "Golden Locust."

Class 11—Gay Nineties class—1, Orville Shook, Limestone, "Gypsy"; 2, Nancy Kinne, Penn Yan, "Red Cherry"; 3, Frank White, Bradford, "Fuzzy."

Class 12—Lead line class for children—1, "Topper" Brown, Olean, on "Ginger" led by Mrs. Frank White riding "Harlan"; 2, "Jimmy" Embser, Wellsville, led by John Young riding "Lady Belle."

Class 7—Mares and colt—1, Mrs. William Wiggins, Portville, "Morning Star" and "Independence Miss."

Class 14—Western trail horse—1, Frank White, Bradford, "Fuzzy"; 2, Newton Phillips, Wellsville, "Queenie"; 3, Orville Shook, Limestone, "Sandy."

Class 15—Pleasure hack—1, Gloria Brown, Olean, "Royal Canote"; 2, Joan Embser, Wellsville,...

Cuba Patriot and Free Press, Thursday, August 15, 1946, p. 1.

Many Entries For Sunday's Show At Empire Stables

Plans are nearly complete for the fifth annual Empire Stables Horse Show to be held Sunday, Aug. 18.

The program consists of 23 events, and winners will receive \$1200 in cash prizes with many trophies and ribbons. The show will start at 12:30 o'clock, with an afternoon and evening schedule.

Bleachers have been provided for the comfort of spectators.

Kit Biddle operator of the stable states that entries now exceed those of all previous shows and he expects Sunday's to surpass all previous records.

Schedule of events follows:

Afternoon – Model three-gaited, model five-gaited, children, seat and hands (under 15 years), Western English, open jumping class, pleasure

class (English), open walking horse, open, five gaited, open pony, pony race, open three-gaited, pleasure horse (Western), musical stalls, jumper stake, Western horse stake, junior five-gaited (rider under 19 years).

Evening – Ladies' three-gaited fine harness class, ladies' five-gaited, three-gaited consolation, junior three-gaited (rider under 19 years), walking horse championship stake, five-gaited championship stake.

Officers in charge of the show are: Judge, R.R. King of Pittsburgh, Pa; Western horse judge, C.F. Gilliatt, Attica; Announcer, Dr. Frank (Nick) Nicklaus, Bath; show manager, Dr. Nicklaus; ringmaster, George Striegel, North Tonawanda.

Cuba Patriot and Free Press, Thursday, August 22, 1946, p. 1.

Empire Stables Horse Show Proves Outstanding Event With 100 Horses Entered

Twenty-three Classes Seen in Afternoon, Evening Program – Crowd of 3000 Here -- \$1200 in Prizes Distributed in 5th Annual Meet – Weather Fine

The fifth annual Horse Show held by the Empire Stables drew an entry list of more than 100 horses from New York State, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The event brought a crowd of nearly 3000 persons and was proclaimed the outstanding event of the New York State show of the season.

Some of the best show horses in the country took part in the events consisting of 23 classes which started at one o'clock and lasted through the afternoon and evening.

The afternoon program was marred when Miss Beverly Brennen of Bradford, Pa., was thrown from her horse as he failed to make a barrier in the jumping stakes. The horse fell and rolled on his rider. Miss Brennen was taken to Cuba Memorial Hospital where X-rays failed to show any fractures and her condition was reported good. She was discharged Wednesday.

Over \$1200 in cash prizes, ribbons and trophies were awarded winners of the 23 events.

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Judges were R.R. King and George Jones of Pittsburg; Judge of Western Class, C.F. Gilliatt, Attica; Ringmaster, George Striegel, N. Tonawanda; Announcer, Dr. Frank Nicklaus, Bath.

Owing to a lack of space, the winners will be announced in next week's issue.

Cuba Patriot and Free Press, Thursday, August 7, 1947, p. 1.

Three Horses from Empire Stables Place In Shows

Three horses from the Empire Stables took prizes at Elmira on July 25, 26 and 27. This is the largest show, so far this season, in which horses from the local stables have been entered.

Lucky Queen, owned by Norman Gibson of Dallas City, Pa., and shown by Chris Biddle, placed second in the gaited class and fourth in the model class.

Fashion Park, owned by Ruth Gibson and shown by David Gibson both of Dallas City, Pa., finished third in the children's seat and hand class.

On the same day Nadine's Choice, owned and ridden by Nadine Williams, Bolivar, placed first in the five gaited class at Attica, and on Aug. 3 she showed at Livonia and placed first in the five gaited class.

Cuba Patriot and Free Press, Thursday, August 24, 1947, p. 1.

Preparations Are Made to Take Care of Large Crowd At 6th Annual Horse Show From 3,000 to 4,000 Expected to Attend Exhibition at Empire Stables August 31—Clown Band to Play—To Have Ox-Roast

Plans are completed and preparations well under way for the 6th annual horse show to be held August 31, and the horse sale to be held September 1 at the Empire Stables. In addition to the horse classes to be shown at the show in the afternoon and evening, an ox-roast is planned and a clown band will entertain.

Kit Biddle, operator of the stables, said that there had been a large contingent of good horses for the auction, scheduled for Monday, the first ever to be held at the Block barn.

The afternoon schedule for the horse show will start promptly at 12:30 p.m. Five hundred dollars is offered for prizes

to entrants in the afternoon and evening events.

Preparations are being made to take care of from 3,000 to 4,000 spectators of the horse show. Steel bleachers have been moved in for the occasion from Alfred University, adequate parking space will be available, new and better lighting for the evening show is being installed, and provisions are being made for serving lunches, dinners, soft drinks, etc. on the grounds. The ox roast to last all day, will begin at 12:30.

A great deal of time and expense has been spent in improving the grounds, the track, making new jumps and the number of entries received to date would

indicate that this will be the best show yet.

The popular clown band from Attica will entertain throughout the day. Besides being accomplished musicians, the band members are all entertainers.

The Cuba Boy Scouts have volunteered their services for the day and will assist with parking cars, selling programs, etc.

Cuba Patriot and Free Press, Thursday, September 4, 1947, p. 1.

Empire Stables Annual Horse Show Attracts Large, Interested Crowd

Weather Perfect – 110 Horses, Valued at Over Quarter of Million Are Entered – Over \$600 and Many Trophies and Ribbons Awarded in 23 Events

A large and interested crowd gathered at the Empire stables Sunday afternoon and evening for the sixth Annual horse show. Followers of horse shows said that seldom did one find as beautiful a setting for an event of this kind as that at Cuba. The weather was perfect and there were no accidents to mar the enjoyment of the spectators.

There were 110 horses, valued at over a quarter of a million dollars entered from stables in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. Over \$600 in money and many trophies and ribbons were awarded to winners in the 23 events.

R.R. King, Pittsburgh, Pa., acted as judge in all but the Western stakes; Red Williams of West Bloomfield, acted as judge in the Western stakes and George Striegel, North Tonawanda, was ring master. Mr. King remarked that the Empire Stables now have the best lighted show ring in these parts.

Pope Ackerman, Belmont, acted as chairman and general manager of the show, and its success is largely due to his efforts. A mobile sound truck was secured from the Army Air Forces recruiting service in Olean, over which the announcer spoke. M/Sgt. Joe

Salmon and M/Sgt. James Colston operated the unit.

Additional Entertainment

The Sam Bey clown band from Attica entertained at intervals during the afternoon and evening. There was a large eating tent where food and refreshments were served and a tent for soft drinks and ice cream. Bleachers from Alfred University were brought in and leaned up against the barn and against the high hedge on opposite sides of the show ring.

Beverly Cant, 14 year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Cant, Carlton, got the two-year-old Palomino mare which was given away at the show.

In the model three-gaited class Lady Alice, owned by Stroeman's Q.B. Stables, Williamsport, Pa., took first and Peavine's Dream owned by Green Farms, Clarence, ridden by Doris Green, took second. In the model five-gaited, Lady Jessamine from Stroeman's Stables took first; Paul Robson, Day farms, Youngsville, Pa., second.

Children's Western Stake

In the children's seat and hands Western stake, Trigger, owned and ridden by Vic Kent, Hinsdale, placed first; Cowboy, owned and ridden by Lewis Gray, Franklinville, second; Ranger, owned by Ward Stevens ridden by Bill Kent, Franklinville, third; Boots, owned by Glenn Cozzi, Scio and ridden by Billy Griggs, fourth; Lady, owned and ridden by Rodney Washburn, Friendship, fifth; Queenie Girl, owned and ridden by Donna Hughes, Allegany, sixth. In the same stake, English, Little Buccaneer, owned by Day Farms, Youngsville, Pa., took first place; Royal Amber, owned and ridden by Sally Thompson, Meadville, Pa., second.

In the open jumping class High Ball, owned by C. F. Gilliatt, Attica, took first; Flicka, Cornish Farms, Pine City, second. In the English pleasure class Sir Richard, owned and ridden by Gerald Nelson, Bradford, Pa., placed first; Highland Silver Dare, Highland Farms, Warren, Pa., second.

Open Walking Horse

In the open walking horse stake Perfect Lady, owned and ridden by E.G. Benninger, Dimock, Pa., placed first; New York Yankee, Jackson-Perkins stables, Newark, second. In the open five-gaited class Stonewall Sue, Green's Farms, Clarence placed first; Gold and Glory, Terrace Farms, Jamestown, second.

In the open pony class, Little Buccaneer, Day Farms, Youngsville, Pa., took first; Royal Amber, owned and ridden by Sally Thompson, Meadville, Pa., second; Betsy, owned and ridden by Nancy Gray, Franklinville; third, Flossie, owned and ridden by Bonnie Kent, Hinsdale, fourth. In the pony race, Queenie Girl, owned and ridden by

Donna Hughes, Allegany, first; Pete, owned and ridden by Bill Kent, Franklinville, second; Wild Fire, owned and ridden by Franklin Cummings, Eldred, Pa., third.

In the open three-gaited, Linda Lane, Green's Farms, first; Hallelujah Honey, owned by George Thompson, Meadville, Pa., second. In the Western pleasure stake, Trigger, owned and ridden by Vic Kent, Hinsdale, first; Pal, owned by John Ross, ridden by Ed Griggs, Wellsville, second; Andy, owned and ridden by R.M. Alford, Bradford, third; Lucky Lady, owned and ridden by Vint Trowbridge, Franklinville, fourth; Ranger owned and ridden by Ward Stevens, Franklinville, fifth.

Junior Five-Gaited

In the junior five-gaited Lucy McDonald, Day Farms, took first. In the musical stalls, Little Fox owned and ridden by Fred Keslar, Middleport, first; Flicka, owned and ridden by Shurman Hurd, Almond, second; Johnny Doughboy owned by Walter Embser, Wellsville, third; Pal owned and ridden by E.J. Mohr, Allegany, fourth; Dusty, owned by Clifton Foster, Friendship, fifth.

The \$100 jumper stake was won by High Ball, owned by C.F. Gilliatt, Attica, first; Gray Stone owned by Kenneth Hamsher, Dansville, second. In the Western stake, Trigger, owned and ridden by Vic Kent, Hinsdale, first; Lucky Lady, owned and ridden by Vint Trowbridge, Franklinville, second; Dick, owned and ridden by Bill Freeman, Franklinville, third.

The junior five-gaited, riders under 19, was taken by Nadine's Choice, owned and ridden by Nadine Williams, Bolivar; Steppin' Bye, owned and ridden by Joan Embser, Wellsville, second. In

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the ladies three-gaited, On Wings, owned by Terrace Farms, Jamestown, first; Peavine's Dream, Green's Farms, second.

Fine Harness Class

The fine harness class was won by Paul Robson, Day Farms, Youngsville, Pa., first; Sparkling Rhythm, Kerr Farms, Meadville, Pa., second. In the Ladies' five-gaited, Belle of the Air, Green's Farms, first; Nadine's Choice, Nadine Williams, second. In the \$100 three-gaited championship, Lady Alice Stroeman's Q.B. Stables, first; Linda Lane, Green's Farms, second.

In the consolation five-gaited, Lady of Glenhurst, Cornish Farms, Pine City,

took first; Dare Preferred, N.D. Gibson, Dallas City, Pa., second. The junior three-gaited, riders under 19 was won by Nancy Beckett, Cornish Farms, first; Copper owned and ridden by Carlton Stout, Wellsville, second.

The \$100 walking horse stake was taken by Perfect Lady, owned and ridden by E.G. Geninger, Dimock, Pa., first; New York Yankee, Jackson-Perkins Stables, second. And the final event of the evening, the five-gaited \$100 championship stakes was won by Stonewall Sue, Green's Farms, first; Rhythm Chief, Dr. J.B. Diavitt, Jamestown, second.

Cuba Patriot and Free Press, Thursday, September 4, 1947, p. 1.

Stage Is All Set for Big Empire Horse Show to Be Held Saturday, Sunday

Afternoon Performances Will Begin at One, Evenings at Seven-forty-five—Many Famous Horses Entered—Barbecue on Grounds Each Day

The stage is nearly set for the big two-day horse show to be held at the Empire Stables on Saturday and Sunday of this week. It is expected that well over 100 horses from New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio will be entered in the 43 classes scheduled.

Afternoon shows are scheduled to start promptly at one o'clock, and the evening shows will begin at seven-forty-five. By popular demand the show is being held two days instead of the customary one day.

Kit Biddle, owner of the stables, has made arrangements for an amplifying system, lights for the night shows, bleachers to accommodate hundreds of spectators, and for a barbecue to be held each of the two days, on Saturday a pork

barbecue and on Sunday, beef. The restaurant at the stables will also be open.

Four horses from the Empire Stables will be entered: Mason's Green of Sport, a three-gaited mare owned by Miss Helen Meridon of Olean; Nadine's Choice, a five-gaited gelding owned by Miss Nadine Williams of Bolivar; Just Johnny Allen, a walking horse owned by Winifred Williams of Wellsboro; and Now is the Hour, a five-gaited bay gelding owned by the Empire Stables. Raised and trained by Kit Biddle, two-year old Now is the Hour is making his first appearance in the show ring.

Some of the outstanding walking horses which will be entered are: Great Mr. Wilson, a prize winner owned by

Hal Cornish of Elmira; My Oh My Miss Molly, owned by C.J. Ballwig of Syracuse; Dessert Gold, from stables in Lancaster, Pa.

Three-gaited and five-gaited champions from all points will be entered. Stress is being put on the ladies' classes this year.

It is generally conceded that Empire Stables offers one of the most attractive show-places in this part of the country, and a large attendance is expected.

Cuba Patriot and Free Press, Thursday, August 26, 1948, p. 1 and 5.

Two-Day Horse Show Here Greatly Pleases Audience Many Fine Horses Are Entered from Large Area

Rain interrupted the seventh annual horse show held at the Empire stables here for a short time Sunday afternoon, but aside from that there was little to mar the pleasure of the many spectators, many of whom came from long distances, at the two-day event.

Horse lovers saw fine horses from New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, many of them champions in their class. The western classes drew large numbers of entrants from the surrounding area. Much interest was shown in the ladies' and children's classes.

Bill McCuren of Ohio and Max Glover of Canisteo acted as judges. Mr. McCuren is a nationally famous judge of saddle horses, and Mr. Glover is equally competent as a judge of jumpers and western horses. Dr. Frank Nichols of Bath was announcer.

In the children's horsemanship class the following were contenders: On Wings ridden and owned by David Gibson of Bradford, first; Sandal Wood Miss, owned and ridden by Sara Lou King of Rochester, second; Ginger, owned and ridden by Betty Compton, Nile; Nubian, owned and ridden by David Warren, Alfred; Hot Foot, owned and ridden by Ursula Warren, Alfred; Brantlys Flash, Patsy Allen, Austin;

Lindy owned by Empire stables, ridden by Helen Clemons, Cuba; Kid Booth, owned by Empire stables ridden by Mary Harnlein, Kenmore; War Paint, owned by Walter Embser, ridden by Anne McGovern, Wellsville; Diamond, owned and ridden by Donna Hughes, Allegany; Roxy owned and ridden by Bonnie Kent, Hinsdale.

The first and second place winners in other classes, the horses name and owners are as follows:

Model jumpers—Rhythm Ladd, H.L. Cornish, Elmira; Sandy Hue, J.F. Lippert, Rock City. Five-gaited saddle horses, amateur riders – Nadine's Choice, Nadine Williams, Bolivar; Dark Victory, Virginia Hale, Jamestown. Walking horses, amateur – Brantley's Flash, A.D. Allen, Austin, Pa.; Merry Vale, Jackson & Perkins, Newark. Amateur jumpers – Rhythm Ladd, Cornish Farms, Elmira; Rosy, Sidney Conklin, Olean.

Musical stall – Patches, Vic Kent, Hinsdale; Dusty, Leland Carver, Hornell. Children's pony class—Royal Amber, Sally Thompson, Erie, Pa.; Sandal Wood Miss, Sara Lou King, Rochester. Three-gaited saddle horses, amateur—Show Master, Cornish Farms, Elmira; On Wings, David Gibson,

Bradford. Western jumping—Sonny, Milford Trowbridge, Franklinville; Ranger, Ward Stevens, Franklinville. Pony race—Pepper, Polly Ellen Pelton, Olean; Diamond, Dona Hughes, Allegany.

Model three-gaited – Lady Be Good, Christie McMann; Scarlet Kalarama, G. Thompson, Erie, Pa., Walking horses, stallions and geldings—Mr. Wilson, Cornish Farms, Elmira; Desert Gold, Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Smallage, Lancaster. Three-gaited, 15.2 hands and under—On Wings, David Gibson, Bradford; Scarlet Kalarama, George Thompson, Erie. Track race—Patches, Vic Kent, Hinsdale; Dusty, Clifton Foster, Friendship. Three-gaited ponies—Royal Amber, Sally Thompson, Erie; Sandal Wood Miss, Sara Lou King, Rochester.

Five-gaited stallions and geldings—Dark Victory, Virginia Hale, Jamestown; Long Lane Chief, Mary Louise Bock, Rochester. Western trail open—Chief, Cornish Farms, Elmira; Ranger, Ward Stevens, Franklinville. Three-gaited, juniors—Show Master, Cornish Farms, Elmira; On Wings, David Gibson, Bradford. Five-gaited mares—Lucky Queen, Norma Gibson, Bradford; Miss Caledonia, David Gibson, Bradford. Mare and colt class—Topsy, Harold Kinney, Cuba.

Open jumping—Rhythm Ladd, Cornish Farms, Elmira; Greystone, Ken Kampsher, Dansville. Three-gaited horses, 5.2 hands and over—Show Master, Cornish Farms, Elmira; Victory

Dare, Empire Stables, Cuba. Walking horse, mares—Allens Faxon Miss, Mr. and Mrs. Peabody, Olean; Lady of Troy, W. ...ache, Wellsboro. Ladies horsemanship, western—Miss Southern Fox, Miss Nesta Clark, Wellsville; Lucky Lady, Vic Trowbridge, Franklinville. Five-gaited juniors—Nadine's Choice, Nadine Williams, Bolivar; Dixie Dan, Beverly Kamerly, Allegany. Potato Race—Dusty, Clifton Foster, Friendship; Pat, James Henry, Alfred.

Jumping horse stake—Rhythm Ladd, Cornish Farms, Elmira; Greystone, Ken Kampsher, Dansville. Model five-gaited—Lucky Queen, Norma Gibson, Bradford; Long Lane Chief, Mary Louise Bock, Rochester. Western stake—Golden Bride, Mary Thornish, East Aurora; Chief, Cornish Farms, Elmira; Five-gaited ladies class—Miss Caledonia, David Gibson, Jamestown; Nadine's Choice, Nadine Williams, Bolivar. Ladies three-gaited—Scarlet Kalarama, George Thompson, Erie; On Wings, David Gibson, Bradford.

Walking horse stake—Desert Gold, Mr. and Mrs. C.F., Smallage, Lancaster, Pa.; Mr. Wilson, Cornish Farms, Elmira. Three-gaited stake—Show Master, Cornish Farms, Elmira; Scarlet Kalarama, George Thompson, Erie. Five-gaited stake—Lucky Queen, Norma Gibson, Bradford; Nadine's Choice, Nadine Williams, Bolivar.

Cuba Patriot and Free Press, Thursday, July 28, 1949, p. 1.

Block Barn is Sold to N.D. Gibson Of Pennsylvania Property Sold by Kit Biddle, Who Operated It Since 1940

The Block barn and 25 acres of land immediately surrounding it was purchased Monday by Mr. and Mrs. Norman D. Gibson of Dallas City, Pa., from Kit Biddle and Sons.

Mr. Gibson, who has owned a cottage on the western edge of Cuba Lake for the past four years, operates an oil business in Butler county, Pa. He said that they will move their stable of five show horses and two Arabian ponies into the barn in the near future.

“Cash” Lewis, well-known horseman, will be in charge of the stables and will direct the buying and selling of horses. A riding academy will also be operated at the stables.

Mr. Biddle, who purchased the Block barn from the Simpson estate in 1948, will continue to own the farmhouse on the hilltop behind the barn and some 97 acres of adjoining land. He said that he would continue to keep some horses. He with his two sons, Christopher and Anderson, have operated the barn for the past nine years.

Mr. and Mrs. Gibson have five children, all of whom became interested in horsemanship under the instruction of Mr. Biddle. The two oldest daughters, 19 and 18 respectively have ridden in some of the most important horse shows in the area, while the 17 year old daughter is interested in handling rather than riding the mounts. David, a 13 year old son, is also an accomplished horseman.

Horse Show

High on the Gibsons' plans for the barn is the revival of the annual horse

show. Mr. Gibson said that there would not be time this season to plan a show, but that there was a very good possibility that the show would be revived next year.

The Block barn was built during the first decade of this century by William Simpson after a disastrous fire had destroyed an entire year's crop of the famous McKinney colts.

The McKinney colts, bred in New Hudson by Mr. Simpson, were famous among horseman throughout the world. McKinney, whose track time was 2:11¼, sired 17 colts who made the 2:10 list as well as 44 in the 2:15 and 62 in the 2:20 classes. Axworthy, another of the stable's famous horses, was also one of the best stallions of his day. He sired horses running at most of the tracks in the United States during the period.

John H. Coxhead, later to become noted for his skill in designing aviation structures, designed the barn as a fireproof stable. Work on the structure was carried out by local craftsmen under the direction of Frederick B. Simpson. The grand opening of the new structure brought to Cuba some of the most prominent horse owners in the world.

Empire City Farms

Besides the horses, the building contained the offices of the Empire City Farms, which were operated by William Simpson, Sr. Empire City farms at one time employed some 40 men in the operation of its extensive holdings, which included 1,200 acres in New Hudson, 135 acres in the Bronx, the Sheldon Farm in Ischua and the former

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Drew Farm. It also rented and operated the Wasson and Conklin farms and the Smith fair grounds. A herd of 300 cows were at one time maintained on the New Hudson tract. The farm also maintained a creamery to convert milk into butter, handling in addition to its own production, milk purchased from farmers of the area.

Also located in the barn were the offices of the Boulton Press and the Cuba Electric company. Empire City farms was dissolved as a corporation in 1917 and the horse interests dispersed. During the same period the Boulton

Press closed and the Cuba Electric company was sold.

For a number of years the stable was vacant. It was rented later by W.G. Saville, who kept saddle horses there for a number of years after carrying out a program of extensive renovation.

Title to the property was acquired by Dr. and Mrs. Frederick B. Simpson in February 1947. Kit Biddle, who had been renting the property since 1940, entered into land contract for it in March 1948.