

Interviewed: May 3, 1976

Tape 87, 1

Mr. & Mrs. Les Gilmore,
1320 No. 4 Road,
Richmond, B. C.
(277-7859)

David Stevenson - Researcher

- Mr. Gilmore is now 81 years old and he has been farming in Richmond for 60 years.
- He started farming after he returned from World War I.
- She bought her first filly, Mary's Hope, in 1955 and got her first foal in 1959.
- The first foal, Ballamina, is now 17 years old and has the record for 1 7/8th mile race and at the time it was the record for North America.
- Prince Aylmer was the top 3 year old in 1963.
- Aviemore was the top mare in B. C. who produced \$98,308.00 up to last year. She is 7 years old now and down in California being bred to a top stallion.
- Mr. Gilmore returned from World War I in 1919.
- He is known for his work in breeding Holsteins.
- Also he grew potatoes...first time that anyone had produced twenty-seven tons to the acre.
- Mr. Gilmore specialized in potatoes and in Holstein cattle...six times World Champion Milk Production.
- In 1942 he bought his first pure-bred Holstein from Pitt Meadows.
- Before his present farm he was in partnership with his brother in a farm on No. 6 Road, as well as he had a 110 acres farm on No. 1 Road at Williams.
- He also had a big ranch in the Cariboo which was sold in 1961; it was used for raising beef cattle.
- Mrs. Gilmore married him in 1954...she was his secretary for 20 years before she married him.
- He raced a horse in 1954 but he did not start breeding until later.
- First horse died in 1955 because it got its foot caught in a fence.
- Her first horse never raced; she was used for breeding.
- They have a horse farm at Aldergrove where they have a training track their trainer is Allan May in Surrey.
- She doesn't like the present tract at Exhibition Park, it's too short.

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HORSE RACING

- The Lansdowne track was a good one but they didn't get the crowds because of the difficulty in transportation.
- Aviemore won the Futurity and the Nursery but she didn't race well at the Park so she raced in Alberta and in California.
- Last year (1975), they had eight horses running and they did very well.
- This year he has two horses racing.
- They just lost a horse in a Claiming Race on Saturday for \$15,000.00 for one of the highest prices ever paid and they are a little annoyed.
- You have to put horses in Claiming Race to rate them and anyone running horses at the track can claim them.
- He now has only Patti-Ruth left.
- Prince Aylmer sustained a fracture in an accident...he raced ten times as a two year old and won one third, six wins and place second twice.
- Prince Aylmer was born in spring of 1963 and raced in 1965.
- There was a fire in the spring of '68 and they let the horses out in the dark and Prince Aylmer hurt himself.
- Aviemore won a cup at Northland Park in Edmonton, the Export Stakes.
- Broke the track record in 1973 in Edmonton.
- She now has four horses at the track and two 2 year olds at home.
- Mrs. Gilmore has the grand-daughter of the horse, Bold Ruler and the grand-son.
- Bold Ruler is the biggest horse in the world...he is the father of Secretoria and also fathered the horse who won the Kentucky Derby the other day.
- Mr. Hawk had the habit of running away behind other horses, 10 - 20 lengths and then runs ahead to win.
- They prefer the longer tracks to the one at Exhibition track because there is no big stretch, it is all turn and difficult for some of the horses.
- Casualties are a common occurrence during the racing season.
- Allan May, their trainer, has been four times the "Trainer of the Year".
- Aviemore races better at Longacres which is loamy and light and easy on the horses whereas at Exhibition Park the track is sandy and when Aviemore runs, she bends at the ankles and get cut by the sand; she

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HORSE RACING

- doesn't stand up high like most horses.
- Lansdowne was a better track, and Brighthouse was better than that, it was one of the best in North America.
 - The B. C. Electric train used to carry the people on benches on flatcars, across the Marpole Bridge; lots of people used to go to the races.
 - There were lots of local horses racing then but now a days, there are more horses from the States.
 - They lost their horse in a Claiming Race, he made over \$9,000.00 last year.
 - He won the 2½ mile race at Exhibition Park last year.
 - You can't claim out of an allowance or a stake race.
 - Allowance races are for potential stake horses.
 - You have to have a horse at the track before you can claim.
 - They have the advantage of being able to train their horses at their track in Aldergrove before the season starts.
 - They did well last year...they had 14 wins, no stakes winners, they won allowance races with Patti-Ruth.
 - They won \$73,000.00 this includes the 1% paid by the government for B. C. bred horses, after expenses, they are left with one-third of the take.
 - Mrs. Gilmore prefers English bred stallion rather than American's.
 - The American's are too finely bred resulting in weak legs.
 - When they raised Holsteins they ran the Richmond Dairy which was a co-op run with his brother, started in 1938.