

Mother of All-Time Great Winner Sneaked Across Rio Grande

Kentucky Derby Founders Held Close El Paso Ties

By WILLIAM C. MCGAW

Few El Pasoans who watched Cannonade thunder down the straightaway at Louisville's Churchill Downs and win the 100th running of the Kentucky Derby, knew of this city's close association with the history of this classical race.

To begin with, the famous "Run for the Roses" was started by a cousin of the late Gen. William J. Glasgow, who celebrated his own 100th anniversary eight years ago at his residence on Magoffin street, where his daughter, Octavia, still resides.

SECONDLY, it is likely there would not be a Kentucky Derby, and certainly it would not be run at a place called Churchill Downs, if Gen. Stephen Watts Kearny had not wed a beautiful St. Louis belle named Mary Radford. It was General Kearny's forces, of course, who placed most of the expanse of land between El Paso and California under the America flag — but that is another story.

Thirdly, many of the Derby

records, and the most unusual ones, were set by horses owned and bred by an Irishman who once lived at 601 North Oregon street — where the House of Carpets is today — and who had a place of business at 107 San Antonio street, where the American Furniture Co. store now stands.

As if this weren't enough for the area, it is furthermore evident that a former manager of the Juarez racetrack made the Kentucky Derby the noted event it has become, while a noted Juarez filly, called Useit, was sneaked across the Rio Grande into the United States and later became the mother of one of the all-time great Kentucky Derby winners, Black Gold.

THE KENTUCKY DERBY was conceived by Col. Meriwether Lewis Clark Jr., who built the famous race course and named it after his mother, Abigail Churchill. The interesting thing is that Abigail was almost NOT his mother. His father, Meriwether Lewis Clark, Sr., had planned to wed the St. Louis belle, Mary Rad-

ford, but his family strongly opposed the union because Meriwether was not only her stepbrother, but first cousin as well, so she finally married Kearny.

Meriwether, Sr., didn't give up easily, though, for when the then Major Kearny was wooing the St. Louis beauty, Meriwether was attending West Point. He heard about the proposed nuptials, however, and on the day Mary and Kearny were to wed, Meriwether returned to St. Louis and so convinced her that she was making a mistake that she didn't show up at the altar and Major Kearny paced back and forth alone.

THE WEDDING was postponed until the next day, and Mary finally decided against marrying her cousin and step brother. She went through with the wedding with Kearny and Meriwether remained a bachelor for four years, at which time he returned to his father's home state of Kentucky and there married Abigail Churchill, of the same family as the late Sir. Winston.

Their first son was Meriwether Lewis Clark, Jr., and it was he who established the Derby in 1875, after spending several years in Europe, studying the races and courses there. He copied the Derby after the Epsom Derby, run at Epsom Downs, England. He named the Kentucky course, Churchill Downs, because it was from his mother's family he acquired the land upon which it was built.

MERIWETHER Lewis Clark, was called "Lutie" by his family and it was by this name he was addressed by his aunt "Tee," who was Harriet Kennerly Radford Clark, mother of General Glasgow and grandmother of Octavia.

Now, about the Irishman who dominated so many Derby races for so long a time and who lived in El Paso. He was Colonel Edward Riley Bradley, often written about by El Paso's Owen P. White and J. D. Ponder, the latter one-time editor of the Times.

Bradley, born in 1856 at Johnstown, Pa., came to New Mexico with his brother, John, in 1880 to mine at Kingston and

Hillsboro. Although they were strong and finely built men, they were too small for the mines, so turned to gambling under the tutelage of Lottie Dino and her husband, Frank Thurmond, later to become beloved pioneers at Deming. It must be remembered that in those days gambling was an honored profession.

AROUND 1888 Ed Bradley left his brother, John, to run their place in Kingston and he moved to El Paso, bringing with him a former deputy of Bat Masterson's, a fast gunman named Michael McLean, and one of the world's greatest dealers, Del Butterworth.

Bradley, as a good-luck omen, called everything he owned with a name beginning with a "B," and that held for his gambling casinos as well as his thoroughbred runners. So, when he opened his elegant casino at 107 San Antonio street, he called it the Bacchus. Ed turned over the first floor saloon and profits to McLean and Butterworth, while he retained management of the games on the second floor.

THE INSTITUTION thrived, but Ed had his eye on greener pastures back east, so he sold out the Bacchus to a gentleman named Si Ryan, known affectionately by his friends as "Three-fingers," who until then had operated a small place on Overland which he called the Cardiff Giant. To demonstrate that he, too, had a touch of class, Three-fingers renamed the Bacchus, calling it The Astor House.

There is little doubt that the Bradleys were by far the classiest gamblers to grace El Paso tables, in addition to being honest. Ponder called them "intelligent young men... both athletes... crack shots with pistol or rifle... Beau Brummels... intolerant of shabbily dressed men." Uncle Jimmy McKenna, who knew them at Kingston, wrote that "only a square game was ever backed by Colonel Bradley's money."

AND A GOOD chunk of Bradley's money was handed over to McLean before the brothers left, for Ed backed his former partner in the purchase

of a majority interest in the Wigwam, which was to become El Paso's most notorious gambling emporium. Minority-interest owner in the Wigwam was Theo Eggers.

Bradley soon established the Idle Hour Farms near Lexington to further his breeding ambitions and went out to bid in top horses over the competition of such notables as the Wideners and the Vanderbilts. His foundation sire was a horse called Black Toney.

From then on, he was always a top contender for the Derby honors, and was the only owner ever to see his horses run one-two in two different Kentucky Derby races. That's domination — notwithstanding Mrs. Tweedie's fine entries.

IN THE 1921 Derby, Colonel Bradley's Behave Yourself came in first, followed by his other horse, Black Entry, and five years later another Bradley colt, Bubbling Over, came pounding down the stretch to nudge another Bradley horse, Bagenbaggage, out of the winner's circle. But that is not all, he had many other winners.

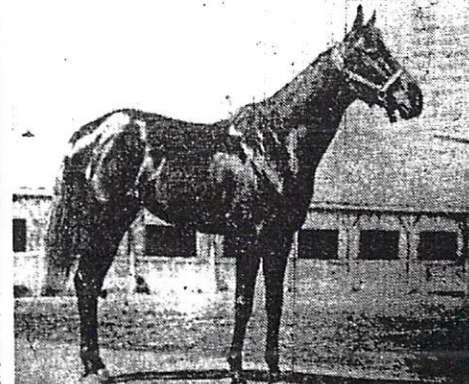
It was fortunate enough to be standing in the last turn at Churchill Downs in 1933 to see Head-Play, ridden by Herb Fisher, drift wide and allow Don Meade to guide Broker's Tip along the rail and take the lead.

Broker's Tip, another Bradley horse, started his move and Fisher reached out, grabbing Meade by the silks to hold him back. Meade whacked Fisher across the nose with his whip and the blood started to fly. Fisher grabbed at Meade's saddle and thus they went over battling down the long straightaway at Churchill Downs with Bradley's entry crossing the wire first. Fisher's foul claim was not allowed, since he started it.

MATT WINN is the racing genius who made the Kentucky Derby what it is today, and he also managed the track at Mexico City and Juarez in the early years of this century. While he was running the Juarez track, a filly named Useit, who had won 35 six-



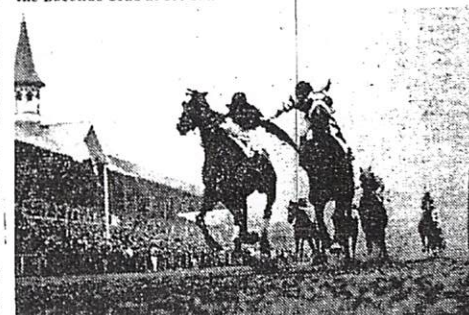
COUSIN—Gen. William J. Glasgow was about 50 years old and a captain living in El Paso when this photo was taken. His cousin, Col. Meriwether Lewis Clark Jr. conceived and built Churchill Downs.



KENTUCKY DERBY WINNER—BLACK GOLD, whose mama came from Juarez, was named Useit, and won 36 six-furlong races before she was bred to Col. E. R. Bradley's foundation stud, Black Toney, to produce Black Gold.



"DERBY DICK" AND BRADLEY—Col. E. R. Bradley and H. J. Thompson, his trainer who was known as "Derby Dick" because of the number of Derby winners he produced. Bradley owned the Bacchus Club at 107 San Antonio street.



FAMOUS STRETCH BATTLE—Jockey Herb Fisher on Head-Play, is at left, and Don Meade, up on Broker's Tip is next to the rail. Broker's Tip was the winner and was owned by Col. Edward Riley Bradley, formerly of El Paso.

VA pamphlet Covers Many Help Programs

The first 100,000 copies of a popular Veterans Administration publication, "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents," have been distributed to regional offices and veterans assistance centers.

It is planned that an additional 300,000 copies will be printed later, incorporating new veterans' laws enacted between the first and second printings.

THE 53-PAGE pamphlet, also known as the "IS-1 Fact Sheet," is among the most widely read VA publications. It covers medical care, G. I. Bill assistance, vocational rehabilitation, pension, compensation, G. I. home loans, life insurance and locations of VA offices, hospitals and drug abuse treatment centers.

The pamphlet carries for the

first time information on the CHAMPVA medical program (similar to military's CHAMPUS) for dependents and survivors of veterans. Also covered are benefits administered by other government agencies, including Labor Department job-finding assistance, Civil Service job preference, Small Business Administration loans and military exchange and commissary store privileges.

THERE IS ALSO information on national cemetery burials. VA took over national cemeteries from the Army last September, with the exception of Arlington cemetery and a few others.

Copies of "Federal Benefits" are available for 60 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20420.