

# Ellsworth

## OWNER OF SWAPS INVESTED WISELY

### From Developing Cow Ponies to Derby Winner Story of Ellsworth Success

Special to The New York Times.

LOUISVILLE, May 7—Swaps raced to victory in the Kentucky Derby today flying the red and black silks of Rex C. Ellsworth. But the 3-year-old chestnut colt has a couple of other owners: Mrs. Ellsworth and the trainer of Swaps, Mesach Adams Tenney.

The Ellsworths own 75 per cent of the stable and Tenney owns the rest.

Ellsworth and Tenney are ex-cowhands. They have been close friends since they were boys. Their first experience with thoroughbreds was when they bought a stallion to cross with their mares to develop better cow ponies.

Ellsworth today hit the peak in a racing career that started with a \$600 investment. In the fall of 1933 he went to the Lexington (Ky.) horse sales with a rented truck and a \$600 capital. He bought broodmares. In time, he prospered.

In 1947 Ellsworth had attained sufficient property to buy a farm near Ontario, Calif. It was named Ellsworth Ranch. It was bought primarily so that horses foaled there might be eligible for rich California-bred races.

#### How He Bought Khaled

In 1953 a 220-acre tract, near Chino, Calif., was bought. The 80-acre ranch near Ontario and the place near Chino are known as the Ellsworth Ranches.

In 1946 Ellsworth went to Europe seeking a stallion. The story is told that he wanted to buy Nasrullah, sire of Nashua, the Derby favorite beaten by Swaps today.

But—so the story goes—he got an unpromising report on Nasrullah and decided instead to buy Khaled, a brown horse foaled in 1943. Khaled was raced in England at 2 and 3, and won five times in eight races. Khaled was bought from the Aga Kahn.

Khaled is the sire of Swaps. And Swaps was foaled at the Ellsworth Ranch near Ontario on March 1, 1952. Also foaled at the ranch was Correspondent, who finished fifth in the 1953 Derby, under the silks of Mrs. Gordon Guiberson.

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The dam of Swaps is Iron Reward, who was bred in California by W. W. Naylor. She raced unplaced at 2 and 3. She is a daughter of Beau Pere, who was imported from Australia by Louis B. Mayer.

### Swaps Unbeaten This Year

So there's a horse-across-the-seas angle to the winning of the eighty-first Derby today.

Swaps had a three-for six record last year. He won one stakes event—the June Juvenile Stakes at Hollywood Park, with John Burton up.

This year he has raced four times—and has won four times. On Jan. 19 he won the San Vicente Stakes at Santa Anita and on Feb. 19 he won the Santa Anita Derby. Willie Shoemaker has ridden him in four of his last five starts.

Tenney, who is 47 years old, has been a horse-trainer since 1935. He does all the shoeing of his horses. Swaps was his first Derby starter.

While Swaps was nibbling grass on the backstretch here earlier in the week, Tenney told how the colt was named.

“We sent in several names to the Jockey Club,” he said, “and they were rejected. So finally I said, ‘Let’s stop swapping names and call him Swaps.’”