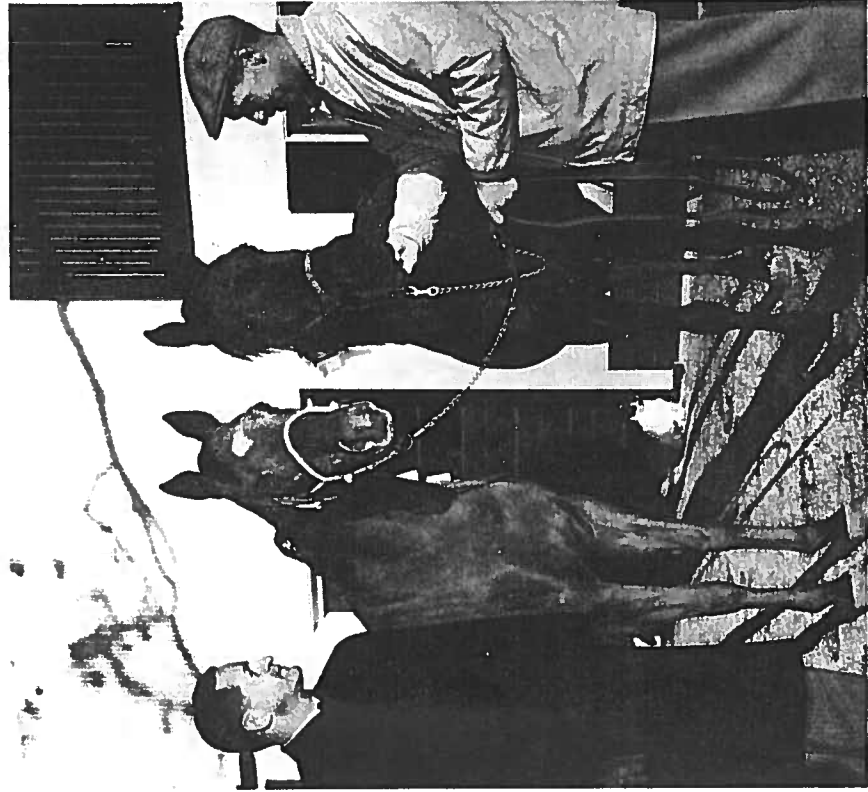


THE PLAIN DEALER

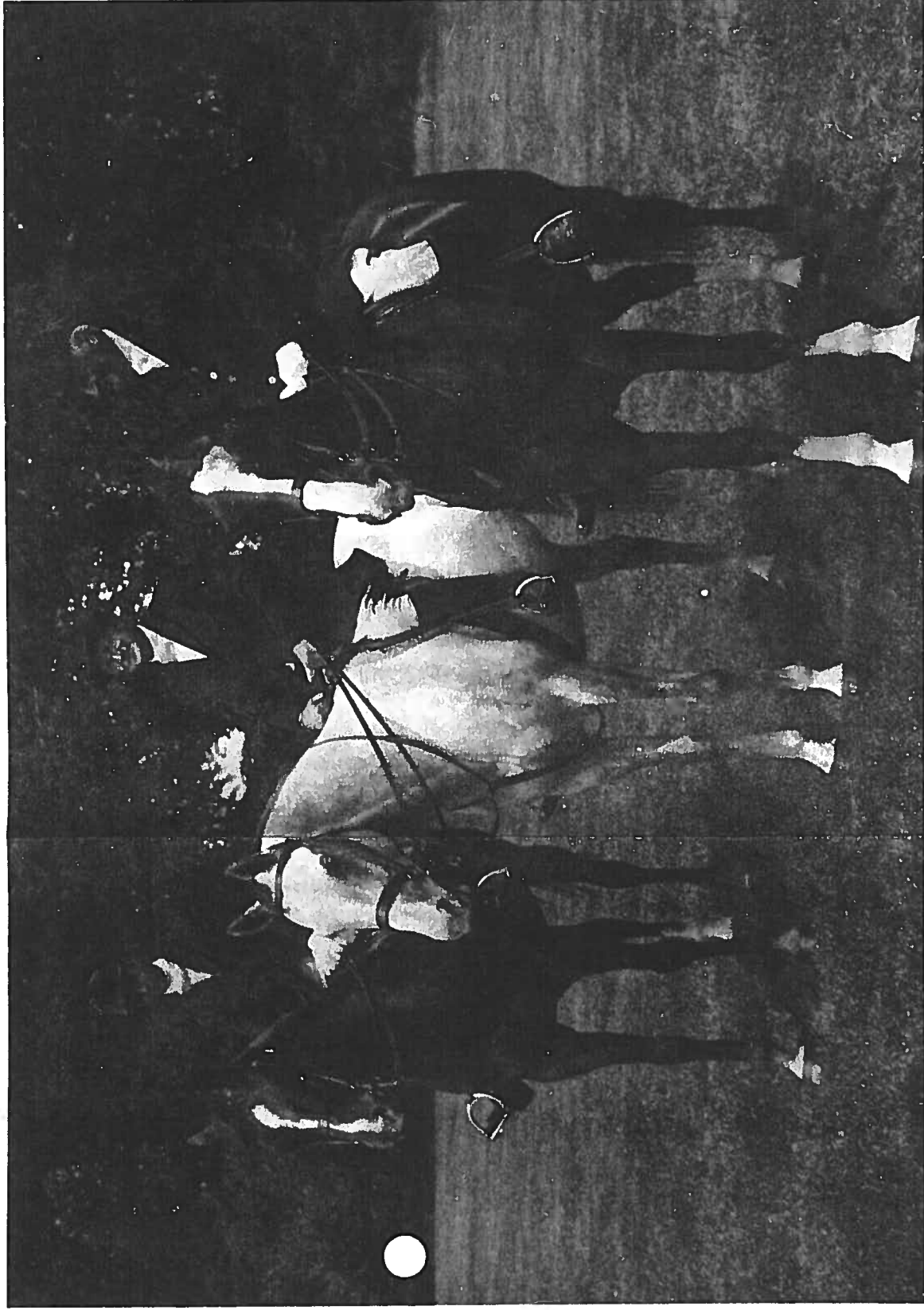
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1961



Cyrus Eaton Jr. (left) and Raymond Francis admire two of their thoroughbred mares which are starting off Acadia Farms' new horse project.



Acadia Torchlight, one of the farm's 1961 champion Shorthorn steers, is shown in the judging ring with (left to right) Betty Royon, Acadia vice president; Judy Derry, Shorthorn lassie queen, and David Goddard, Acadia herdsman.



Three generations of Cyrus Eatons of the rolling hills of Acadia Farms are (left to right), Cyrus Eaton III, Cyrus Eaton Jr. and Cyrus Eaton.

50 YEARS OF ACADIA —

Industrialist Cyrus Eaton Is Farmer First

By MARC D. GLEISSER

The man who is probably Ohio's most widely known farmer is getting ready to celebrate his 50th anniversary on the same tract of land.

This land has repeatedly focused world-wide attention on northern Ohio. Its crops have ranged from wheat and oats to internationally recognized steers, controversial ideas and giant corporations. The farm is called Acadia.

which in French is the name for 850 acres of rolling pasture and evergreen trees on both sides of old Route 8 in Northfield, midway between Cleveland and Akron.

Its proud owner is Cyrus Eaton, chairman of the board for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway and several other giant corporations. It was he who contributed part of it to the Cleveland Metropolitan Park system.

The farm became the possession of Eaton in 1912. A close friend and associate in early financial ventures, George Bishop, lived near the farm. He wanted Eaton to live near him.

Heirs Hard To Trace

But the original owner, John Wilson, a Connecticut farmer who had moved to the Western Reserve, had long since died.

Wilson had left no will, but he had left 35 heirs scattered across the country. It was a tremendous task to trace them all down, but after much persistence all were signed.

Eaton kept the original Wilson farmhouse, now 166 years old, which has been the Eaton residence for more than 35 years. At first the family lived here only in summer and on weekends.

"We planned the digging of the St. Lawrence canal and harnessing of its electric power here," Eaton said. "We had the financing set up and were ready to go when Al Smith was elected governor of New York and turned it down."

"Later President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked my help in getting that program under way again. I still have his letter and was recently offered \$1,000 for it."

Eaton, whose 78th birthday is today, sat in the flickering shadows of the log fire and reminisced in his large, white-painted front room, surrounded by shelves heavy with books.

Cyrus Eaton Jr., whose home is on a different part of the farm, proudly displayed the horses that he said had been especially picked for breeding.

"They are the foundation of the new program we officially launched this year," the industrialist's son said. "We are mainly interested in raising yearlings and then selling them to others who may be interested in racing."

Knows Farm Details

Why would an industrialist of untold wealth, deeply concerned about world peace and an avid reader in philosophy, poetry and history, want a farm?

"Father was born and reared on a farm in Nova Scotia," Cyrus Jr. said. "He has always loved the outdoors. His greatest pleasure is to ride his horses on the farm."

"He is a working farmer. He knows everything that goes on here. He rises before 6 in the morning and always checks the barns before going to work."

"He knows every time a colt or calf is born. He has planted thousands of evergreens here in this tough clay soil and he knows immediately if anything is changed."

While horses are Acadia's newest interest, the farm has long been known for its cattle. This program is headed by Miss Betty Royon, vice president of the farm and assistant to Eaton in the C & O headquarters in the Terminal Tower.

Then it was remodeled as a year-round home.

It was in this house, Eaton said in an interview before the burning logs in his fireplace, that Republic Steel and other major corporations were born.

Mrs. Eaton, knitting in front of the fireplace, added that many of the world's major scholars, writers and university presidents were frequent guests.