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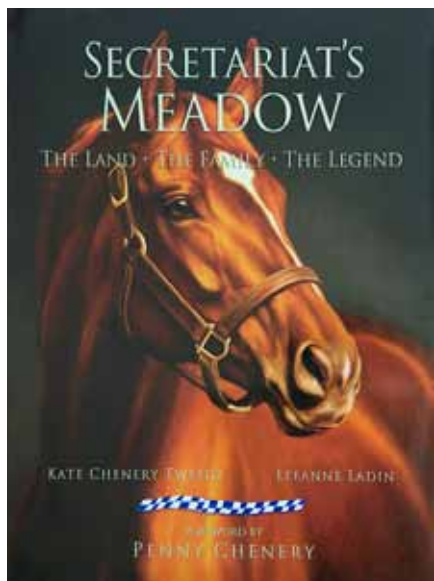
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Book Review



Secretariat's Meadow *The Land • The Family • The Legend*

Reviewed By Aggie Sterret

Thirty-nine years after Secretariat breezed his way to a 31-length victory in the Belmont Stakes, seizing the horseracing Triple Crown, a spring doesn't go by when sports fans don't wish for a repeat performance.

The story of Secretariat is one of the determination that goes back long before that March day in 1970 when Somethingroyal foaled a large red colt in a small white foaling shed on a historic farm called The Meadow in Caroline County, Virginia.

Kate Chenery Tweedy is uniquely qualified to tell this story. The daughter of Secretariat's owner Penny Chenery, Tweedy was in college when Big Red galloped into horseracing history and American's hearts. As a child she spent time at

The Meadow, owned by her grandfather Christopher Chenery, and later she witnessed firsthand her mother's efforts to reverse the farm's financial decline. In *Secretariat's Meadow*, she and co-author LeeAnne Ladin tell the story of the farm that was a family home as well as a racing operation, and the people who made it possible. Tweedy incorporates her personal experiences at the farm and the track, and the book is rich with photographs from her family's collection.

Young Christopher Chenery (1886 – 1973), an avid horseman, lived in Richmond and often visited his relatives at The Meadows, their ancestral farm. His love of horses led to cavalry service during World

War I, and in the following decade he studied finance and made his fortune in water and gas utilities.

But he was never far away from equestrian activities, and was an avid foxhunter, polo player, and horse show enthusiast. When he suffered a serious heart attack in 1936, his doctor recommended abandoning his hard-charging equine sports, but a relative suggested a less strenuous horse activity: Thoroughbred breeding.

Scarred by childhood poverty, Chris was driven to succeed. But his previous business success wasn't enough. Purchasing and restoring The Meadow, the emblem of his ancestral heritage that had been sold out of the family in 1912, became his passion. To breed and race the perfect horse became his dream.

His philosophy that successful racing depended on broodmares proved itself with such notables as Hill Prince, son of Hildene and Princequillo, who won the Wood Memorial in 1950 and ran second in the Kentucky Derby.

Under Chris Chenery's leadership, The Meadows began producing Stakes winners in 1939, but by the late 1960's his failing health and other factors had thrown the farm into financial decline. Daughter Penny stepped in and by 1972 had campaigned Riva Ridge to two of the three Triple Crown wins for that year, bringing the farm back to profitability.

However, Chris' death in January of 1973 left the farm with enormous estate taxes and a difficult choice: sell the farm and keep Riva Ridge and Secretariat, or sell the horses and keep the land. Again Penny came to the rescue, syndicating Secretariat's future breeding rights – allowing The Meadows to continue racing the horse while paying down the IRS debt.

An absolutely beautiful book – rich in family and horseracing history – *Secretariat's Meadow* has in-depth chapters on Chris Chenery, Penny Chenery, Riva Ridge and Secretariat; with little known facts and choice tidbits from the breeding and horseracing industries. Hundreds of photographs from the Chenery archives bring to life the behind-the-scenes making of "America's Super Horse."

Signed Copies of

SECRETARIAT'S MEADOW

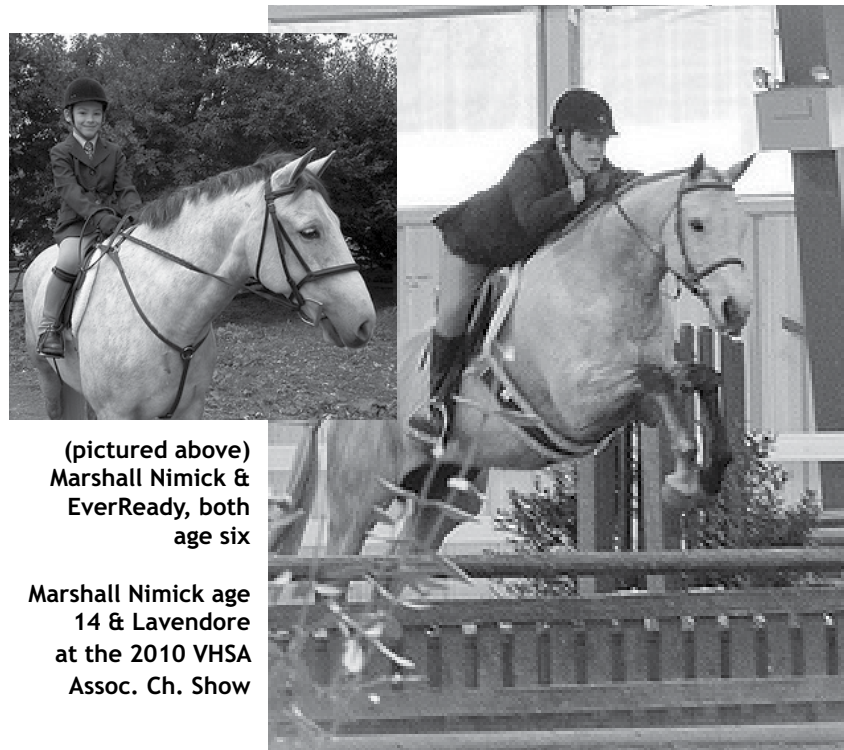
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