



Etienne Le Gloanec - Horse Breeder

Hello! I am Lorna Farrington. Today, Spotlight on Brittany will meet with Etienne Le Gloanec at St Tréphine.

Lorna Hello Etienne !

Etienne Nice to meet you !

Lorna Thank you for this kind welcome. I have been told that you love horses. Is that true ?

Etienne Yes, I am a breeder since ... I bought my first mare in 1961

Lorna What was she called ?

Etienne Kermesse

Lorna Where did you find her ?

Etienne Well, in fact, I bought her because we had decided to revive breeding in the Corlay area. In former times, there were lots of breeders and they were decreasing. The national studs have then decided to propose two mares.

Lorna Did your father bring them home ?

Etienne My father brought them. My father was a former breeder, as my grand-father too. He was retired and wanted to have a horse. As I was running the family farm, I said to him : 'You only need to buy her and pay'".

Lorna And what happened?

Etienne It would take too long to tell you how the transaction has taken place. To come to the end, My father came back with a mare named Kermesse. She was not a race horse. She had two brothers, stallions dedicated to horse shows, bought by the National Studs but none of the horses in the family had run in a race.

Lorna And then ?

Etienne We have made a servicing. We had a mare. I have kept the mare as a brood mare. From the first breeding we had two winners.

Afterwards, I have kept some other mares as brood mares. The second one has produced four winners and after the third, six winners, so we can say that we are in a progression.

Lorna All the horses you own now are from Kermesse ?

Etienne Yes. Now I am retired. Now, my son runs the breeding farm. I have made a short report, just between us. So, we had nine victories on flat land and fifty-one victories in steeple-chases, cross-country.

Lorna That makes around sixty-one victories.

Etienne That makes exactly sixty.

Lorna How many horses does your son own by now ?

Etienne Today, my son owns ten horses : two brood mares and eight other horses.

Lorna And will it continue in the family?

Etienne I think my son will be the last breeder because his children are not interested. My five grandchildren are not interested either.

Lorna Have you always been working with horses since your childhood ?

Etienne I began working with horses from the age of sixteen with my father and after my wedding I continued for nine years until I got my first tractor in 1963.

Lorna Did you ride horse in horse races ?

Etienne Oh. No, no, no.

Lorna Never for races but at the farm ?

Etienne When we began with breeding, I have broken two or three horses. Breaking a horse is to ride it for the first time. All the children from the land used to ride.

Lorna Was your father a jockey, or your grandfather ?

Etienne My father, I think, told me he had ridden in six or seven races. You must have, as one says, races pose challenges to brain and brawn. Even in provinces, there are rather good jockeys but they can hardly recognize their way, when they have to turn and veer.

Lorna And your grandfather ?

Etienne My grandfather has bred horses, but no race horses. He sold the horses to the army or the Republican Guard.

Lorna You told me that the Germans also took horses.

Etienne During the war they have requisition several horses in the breeding-farms.

Lorna And they have paid for them ?

Etienne Yes. They paid them a rather high price, by the way, they took also cart horses. They paid blood horses, how they are called, a higher price. But, in any case, if you want, my father was not unhappy. As there were no more races we should have kept the horses at the farm for 5 years. Why would you do that?

Lorna Thank you very much for you kind welcome.

