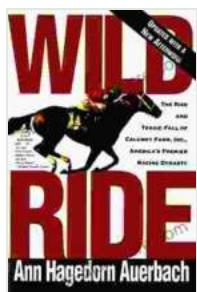


The Rise and Tragic Fall of Calumet Farm Inc.: America's Premier Racing Dynasty

In the annals of American horse racing, few names evoke the same level of reverence and nostalgia as Calumet Farm Inc. Founded in 1924 by oil tycoon Warren Wright, Calumet quickly established itself as a powerhouse in the sport, amassing an unparalleled collection of Thoroughbred champions and becoming synonymous with excellence on the racetrack.



Wild Ride: The Rise and Tragic Fall of Calumet Farm, Inc., America's Premier Racing Dynasty by Ann Hagedorn

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1166 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 490 pages



However, behind the glamour and glory lay a complex and often tragic story that would ultimately lead to the farm's demise. This article chronicles the rise and fall of Calumet Farm Inc., shedding light on the triumphs, controversies, and personal struggles that shaped its legacy.

The Golden Age of Calumet Farm

Warren Wright's passion for horse racing began at an early age. In 1924, he purchased a 500-acre farm in Lexington, Kentucky, and named it

Calumet Farm. With the help of his trainer, Ben Jones, Wright began acquiring some of the finest Thoroughbreds in the country.

Calumet's first major success came in 1930 with the purchase of Whirlaway. The colt went on to win the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes in 1941, becoming one of the most popular horses in American racing history. But it was Citation, purchased in 1944, that would cement Calumet's status as a racing dynasty.

Citation won 16 of his 19 starts and earned over \$1 million in winnings, a record at the time. In 1948, he became the first Triple Crown winner in 25 years. Citation's success made Calumet the envy of the racing world, and Wright became known as the "Sultan of Swat" of horse racing.

Calumet continued to produce champions throughout the 1940s and 1950s, including Seabiscuit, Man o' War, and Secretariat. The farm's horses won a record-breaking 14 Kentucky Derbies, 11 Preakness Stakes, and 10 Belmont Stakes. Calumet's dominance was so complete that it was said that "if you didn't have a horse from Calumet, you didn't have a horse."

The Beginning of the End

However, the golden age of Calumet Farm would not last forever. Warren Wright died in 1950, and his son, Warren Wright Jr., took over the operation. While Warren Jr. was a successful businessman, he was not as passionate about racing as his father. He began selling off some of the farm's best horses, and Calumet's dominance on the racetrack began to decline.

In the 1970s, Calumet Farm was hit by a series of financial setbacks. The farm's breeding program suffered, and the quality of its horses deteriorated. In 1984, Calumet Farm was sold to a group of investors. The new owners tried to revive the farm's fortunes, but it was too late. Calumet Farm had lost its magic, and its days as a racing powerhouse were over.

The Legacy of Calumet Farm

Despite its tragic fall, Calumet Farm Inc. remains one of the most iconic names in American horse racing. The farm's legacy is one of triumph and adversity, of brilliance and tragedy. Calumet's horses won more than 800 races and earned over \$8 million in winnings. The farm's impact on the sport is immeasurable, and its name will forever be associated with the golden age of American racing.

Today, Calumet Farm is a tourist attraction and a reminder of a bygone era. The farm's rolling hills and historic buildings have been restored to their former glory, and visitors can learn about the farm's history and its legendary horses.

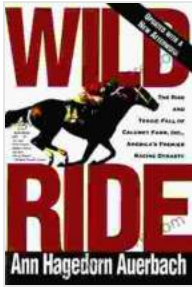
The rise and fall of Calumet Farm Inc. is a tale of both triumph and tragedy. It is a story of a man who followed his passion and created one of the greatest racing dynasties in history. It is also a story of how quickly that dynasty can be lost when passion and perseverance are replaced by greed and indifference.

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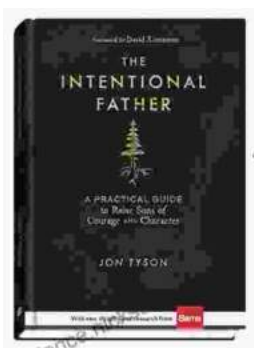


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