DOUG SCOTT—OWNER-DRIVER

Doug Scott is a man who has lived with horses all his life. He learnt to ride and handle them as a youngster at Narrandera in the Riverina, where his dad was a shearer, drover, and “jack-of-all-trades”.

In 1964 Doug’s interest in horses took a new turn when a friend at the Warragamba Dam, where Doug now lives, began to notice how good he is with them. The friend suggested that he should try training horses for professional trotting. He introduced Doug to P. J. Hall, who is one of the best owner-trainer of trotting horses in Australia. Perc Hall agreed to teach Doug and put him on his feet in racing.

That is how Doug Scott’s interest in trotting began. Since then, he has raced at Bulli, Canberra, Gosford, Parramatta, Penrith, Kembla Grange, and Harold Park. He has never driven for anyone but himself, and has won at least ten races with his favourite horse, Hal Prince.

The plum win in trotting is at Harold Park, but Doug still counts a win at Parramatta as his most memorable. It was there that he beat his old teacher for the first time. Perc Hall was driving Brushwood Guy, the odds-on favourite. But Doug and Hal Tiger led the field to win a trotting gig worth $250 and $400 prize money as well as Perc Hall’s wry comment “You’re too good on the night, boy!”

Doug has to train his horses every morning before he goes to work and also has to exercise them at night. You can get some idea of what it takes to keep a trotting horse in prize-winning condition by the diet he feeds his horses: lucerne chaff, lucerne hay, oaten chaff, oats, cracked corn, bran, whole linseed meal, molasses, brown sugar, powdered milk, glucose powder, epsom salts, table salt, and carrots. There is a lot of hard work, but there are big rewards, too. After winning the Graduation Stakes from Perc Hall at Harold Park recently, Doug said: “It’s a big thrill, a big thrill to beat the man who taught you! And it’s a big thrill to look up and see 14,000 people watching you bring one home.”

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

The Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare has recently approved of the building of the following homes for Aborigines in country and city areas.

Armidale, Lot 2, Erskine Street, 3 bedrooms.
Armidale, Lot 6, Niagara Street, 4 bedrooms.
Broken Hill, Lot 137, Duff Street, 3 bedrooms.
Mt Druitt, Lot 198, Batavaia Place, 3 bedrooms.

NEW DAWN, March, 1972