

collector's items. His original study of Bayridge, and his painting of trainer Max Hirsch with Assault (the 1946 Kentucky Derby winner) rank with the portrait of Ben Jones and Armed as among Ellis' top works.

Ellis stayed in Lexington about two years and then returned to his native Texas.

The Paintings

Few observers at the time could

find reason to say that the paintings Ellis did for the Horseshoe were not impressive

The major canvas, depicting the 1946 thoroughbred sales at Keeneland, hung on the wall near the Horseshoe bar. It attracted considerable attention because many of the faces of famous persons were identifiable. They included auctioneer George Swinebroad; A.B. (Bull) Hancock of Claiborne Farm; War-



Top, Thoroughbreds racing. Not likely at Keeneland, since rail is not proper style.

Bottom, Thoroughbreds at water. One of Ellis' best works and one of the best preserved. Canvas paintings are rolled up for storage. When hung again, the stretching process will eliminate most of the marks visible in these photographs.

