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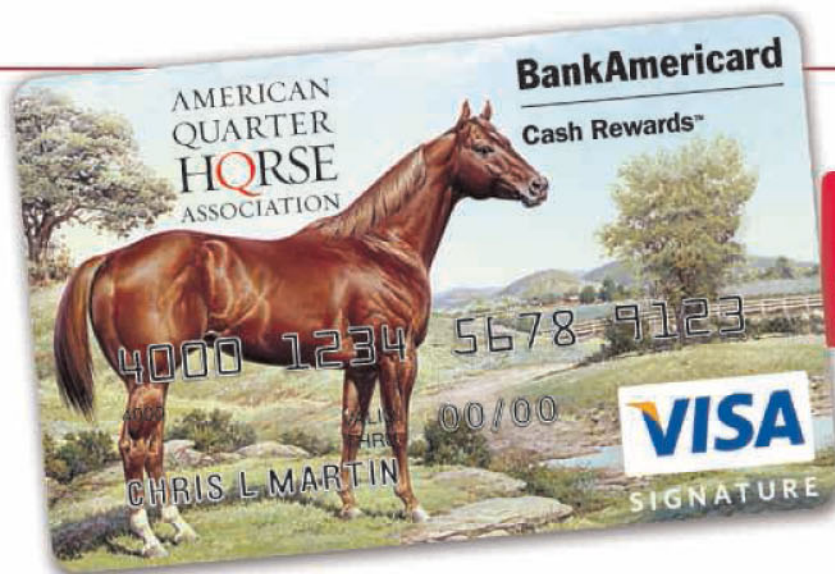
THE DOCTOR IS IN.

Dr. Glenn Blodgett, the new president of AQHA, is dedicated to Quarter Horses and to improving the industry. As resident vet and manager of the horse division at Four Sixes Ranch, Dr. Blodgett is a man who knows his way around horses. And around trucks. Which works out well, considering AQHA members receive \$500 off select Ford vehicles.*

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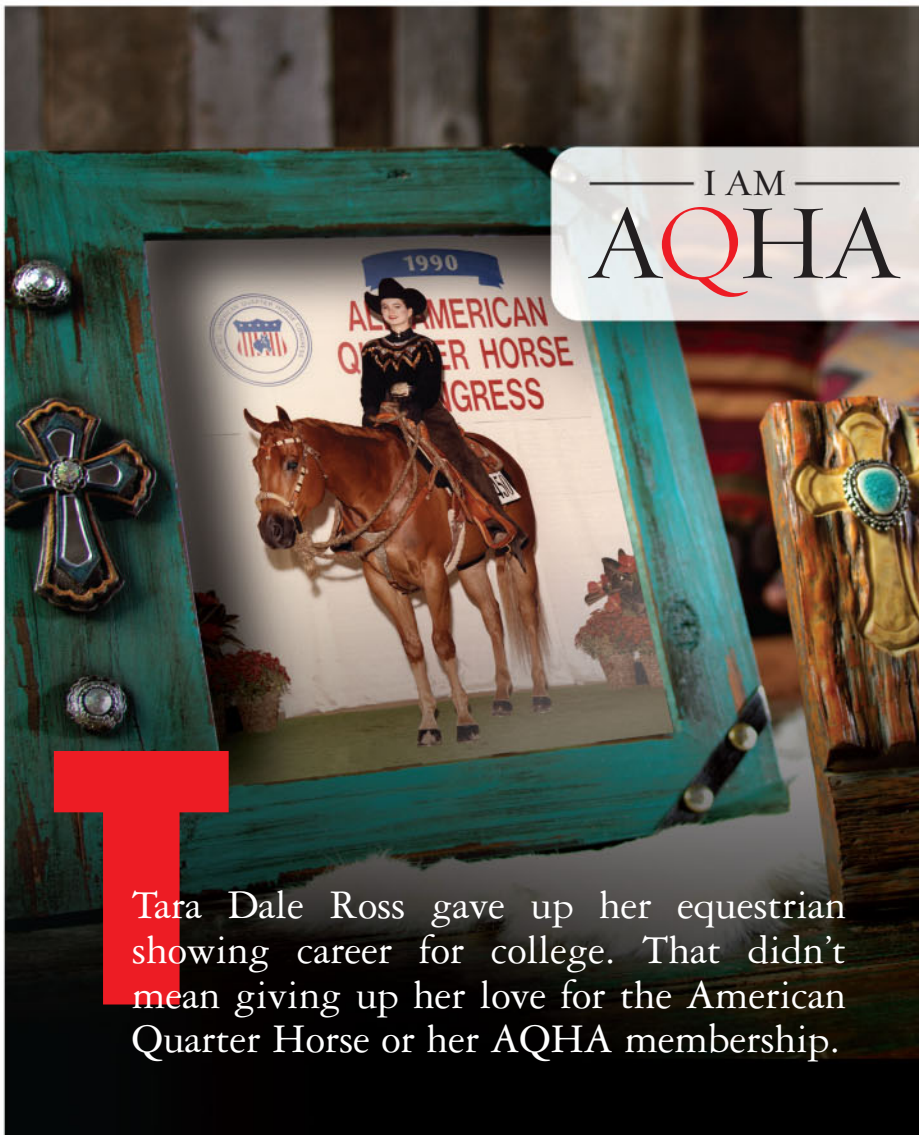
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I AM
AQHA

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Tara Dale Ross gave up her equestrian showing career for college. That didn't mean giving up her love for the American Quarter Horse or her AQHA membership.

"It was heartbreaking to sell my horse and quit showing," she says.

Tara Dale went to college and pursued a career in corporate America while creating her own family. But horses and showing always stayed on her mind and in her heart.

"There has been a part of me missing ever since I quit riding," says Tara Dale. "Nothing has been able to fill that void."

Tara Dale says she absolutely plans to own horses again one day.

In the meantime, she stays current with the Quarter Horse industry through social media, acting as one of AQHA's biggest cheerleaders on Twitter. She has been especially supportive of the #AQHAProud social media campaign and says her AQHA pride goes beyond seeing her name on a set of registration papers.

"Although I don't currently own a horse, I am still AQHA Proud because it is an honor to support an organization that puts the breed's welfare and best interest first and brings the people who are passionate about the Quarter Horse together for the preservation and promotion of the breed's future."

Tara Dale Ross - AQHA Member Spotlight



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AMERICA'S HORSE

VOL. 17 NO. 7

MAY 2015

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America's Horse (ISSN 1522-8983) is published monthly, except bimonthly Jan-Feb and Mar-Apr, by the American Quarter Horse Association, 1600 Quarter Horse Drive, Amarillo, TX 79104, as a benefit to its members and to those of its auxiliary youth organization, the American Quarter Horse Youth Association. \$1 per year of the membership dues is allocated toward the magazine subscription.

Address correspondence to *America's Horse*,
P. O. Box 32470, Amarillo, TX 79120,
or email to aqhajrnl@aqha.org.

The editors welcome photos, but cannot guarantee their return. Unsolicited manuscripts will not be acknowledged.

Periodicals postage paid at Amarillo, Texas, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *America's Horse*, P. O. Box 200, Amarillo, TX 79168. Changes can also be made by calling 806-376-4811. Changes cannot be made without the old address as well as the new. For uninterrupted service, changes should be made 45 days prior to date of publication.

Canada subscriptions: Canada Post Agreement Number 40030582. Send change of address information and blocks of undeliverable copies for Canadian subscribers to DPGM, 4960-2 Walker Road, Windsor, ON N9A 6J3.

America's Horse is an official AQHA publication. Its mission is to present informative, educational and entertaining articles that promote the benefits of owning an American Quarter Horse and belonging to AQHA.

Call 800-291-7323 or go to www.aqha.com subscribe for subscription information regarding *The American Quarter Horse Journal*.

AQHA also recommends that prior to purchasing a horse or selecting a horse for breeding purposes, a buyer should take measures to verify the accuracy of records proclaimed by a seller in an advertisement (pedigree, performance record, sire record, dam record, etc.). Such measures may include visiting www.aqha.com or contacting AQHA for official records.





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AMERICA'S HORSE

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Frances Peavy Bonham and Dolly Varden from the 75-year breeders exhibit at the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum
Photo courtesy of Jennie Mae Bonham

ABC/RICHARD CARLSON



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PLATES

Driftwood
Kathleen A. Dotson of Chandler, Arizona, is "mom" to three Driftwood-bred Quarter Horses.



Horsey Limo
Andrea Janis of Thousand Palms, California, carries these plates on her horse trailer.



I Love Quarter Horses
Twenty-year breeder Diane Carpentier of Washburn, North Dakota, may drive a Ford Mustang, but Quarter Horses are her breed of choice.



American Quarter Horse Judge
Sherrye Johnson-Trafton of Brunswick, Maine, who is, you guessed it, an AQHA judge.



Colt Man
Rick Cornwell of Wickenburg, Arizona, is an AQHA Professional Horseman.



We'll Make Ya Famous Do you have a special horse you'd like to see in the pages of *America's Horse*? Send a high-resolution photo to aqhajrnl@aqha.org, as well as a brief description. Don't forget to keep sending in those personalized horse-related license plates and unique horse markings, too!



Who's Ready for Trail-Riding Weather?

DEBBY SCERRI OF MINDEN, NEVADA, SENT IN A photo of her horse, Docs Diamond Whimpy, or "Dusty." At 15, he is a retired cutting horse, and Debby says "I have the pleasure of trail riding with this fabulous Quarter Horse." If you're ready to head out with your own horse, check out the full schedule of AQHA trail rides at www.aqha.com/riding.

Living Side by Side

I'd be thrilled to see my Quarter Horse featured in *America's Horse*. His barn name is "Gambler," and his registered name is Chip Off Zips Block. He is a 7-year-old gelding and is such a sweet and gentle horse. He is boarded and lives at Nickel-O Farm in West Nyack, New York, which also happens to be where I live in a barn apartment. His owners are me and my "other half," Jim Mitchell.

Jane Zippilli
West Nyack, New York



A Good Sign I wanted to send some pictures of my 2008 model mare, SB Kay Rey, or "Kay," with her "thumbs up" mark on her face. This picture was kindly taken by a photographer for *The American Quarter Horse Journal* who was on-site during the 2011 National Cutting Horse Association Futurity, where we placed in the top 10 of the amateur division. I always thought it was a good thing that she had a "thumbs up" print on her face.

Erin E. Russell, Fort Worth, Texas

Editor's Note: *The Journal* is always bringing you coverage from top shows. Check out www.aqha.com/journal to see what events our writers have been to lately.

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Presidential Purpose

I AM HONORED TO SERVE AS THE NEXT AQHA president, and I'd like to outline for you, our members, what I see as my priorities over the next year.

Our customer service with regard to registration and transfer turnaround time and our youth programs have vastly improved over the past couple of years, and I want to continue to build on that success.

Welfare of the Horse

WE'RE MAKING GOOD STRIDES IN THE RACING industry with the Multiple Medications Violations System. And the AQHA Animal Welfare Commission through the AQHA Show Council and Show Committee is tackling some tough issues on the show side. We must push forward with these and more efforts to do all we can to protect our horse and to avoid the government or overzealous but well-meaning animal rights groups from stepping in and dictating how we are to use and care for our animals.

Member Growth and Retention

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PROFESSIONAL Rodeo Cowboys Association, we recognize horses in these events each year with the AQHA-PRCA horse of the year awards, but we need to do more to entice these enthusiasts to join AQHA and to register and transfer their American Quarter Horses. In 2014, we developed an alliance partnership with the United States Team Roping Championships, and we are renewing our partnership with the National Barrel Horse Association. We are also exploring additional avenues for spotlighting these horses in AQHA's publications and through AQHA's promotional activities. We also have our onsite services at the USTRC, Wrangler National Finals Rodeo and the Calgary Stampede. We will identify other large events for the onsite services, as well.

Breed Sustainability

THE FIVE-PANEL GENETIC DISEASE TEST WILL go a long way to help our members when

they are making their breeding decisions. I know we've done some educational articles in the AQHA publications, but we need to explore other ways of reaching out to our members to educate them more about the tools available to be more responsible breeders.

Solid Communication

WE NEED TO REACH OUT TO MEMBERS TO find out how they best want to receive communication from AQHA. Our directors would like more information – in addition to the weekly e-newsletter that they already receive from the executive vice president – and we need to figure out how they want to receive that information. This winter, we've conducted what we call town hall conference calls with all of the directors and got a lot of good feedback. We are thinking about how to use this concept more often with the directors so that they can pass information on to their constituents.

Fiscal Responsibility

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, WE WERE allocating \$2.5 million out of investment income to the operating budget. We've reduced that amount now to replenish the reserves. I'm proud to say that AQHA was able to add \$1.9 million back to net assets in the 2014 fiscal year.

I want you to know that I have always ridden for the Four Sixes brand, and I also ride for the AQHA brand. I know *how* to ride for the brand. □

Dr. Glenn Blodgett is a veterinarian and the manager of the horse division at the Four Sixes Ranch at Guthrie, Texas. He was elected AQHA president in March at the 2015 AQHA Convention in Fort Worth, Texas.

By AQHA

President

Dr. Glenn Blodgett

AQHA's new

president outlines his priorities for 2015.



Outgoing AQHA President Johnny Trotter presents Dr. Glenn Blodgett with his president's buckle at the 2015 AQHA Convention.

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75 Years *and* Counting

**As AQHA celebrates its diamond anniversary, we're paying
homage to the ranches – and ranch women – who have
been there for the whole journey.**

By Becky Newell

W

WHAT DO ALICE MOORE; MAVIS,
Mary and Frances Peavy; and
Anne Burnett Tandy all have
in common?

Alice Moore with Moore Ranch-bred horses in Raton, New Mexico



COURTESY OF ALICE MOORE



COURTESY OF ALICE MOORE

They all became businesswomen and ranchers at a time in history when it wasn't considered proper for women to be in those positions. This year, we're celebrating the contributions of these women's ranches to the 75-year history of the American Quarter Horse Association and the American Quarter Horse breed. Their ranches and several others have registered horses in each of AQHA's 75 years.

Woven into these ranches' histories are the names of the men, women and horses who are considered the foundation of the breed and the Association. Back then, however, the people were simply neighbors, and the stallions were just good horses with good conformation that were nearby and available for breeding.

Moore Ranch

IT WAS 1954 AND ALICE MOORE HAD PLANS TO BECOME A VETERINARIAN. A female veterinarian? The only daughter of Landon K. and Mary Moore, Alice spent more time as a child horseback on the family's 20,000-plus-acre ranch in northern New Mexico than she did in the house learning the things little girls learned to do in the 1940s. By golly, she was going to go to vet school. Then tragedy struck. Landon passed away shortly after Alice's high school graduation. Duty called. Alice was asked by her mother to help run the ranch. Managing grass, water, cattle and horses became Alice's job, and she never looked back.

Bonham Ranch

TRAGEDY STRUCK THE PEAVY FAMILY WHEN ITS PATRIARCH, Marshall, was killed when the gelding he was riding stepped in a badger hole while Marshall was roping a calf to doctor. It was the spring of 1944, and his widow, Mavis, and daughters Mary and Frances were left to carry on the cattle and horse ranch he started in the early 1900s in Colorado. However, Mary and Frances weren't exactly tenderfoots when it came to breeding and training horses, as from a young age Marshall had given them horses to train and breed and guided them in their decisions. Frances married Wayne Bonham in 1951, and together they carried on her father's Quarter Horse bloodlines under the Bonham Ranch name.



COURTESY OF BILL BONHAM

Frances "Biddy" Peavy Bonham on Artemis (Ambrose-Margie by Ding Bob) in the early 1950s at Rock Ranch



COURTESY OF BILL BONHAM

"Biddy" Peavy and Wayne Bonham with Wahoo Peavy (Ambrose-Chipeta by Ding Bob) and Artemis in 1951



COURTESY OF MARC BONHAM

Mavis Peavy on Sheik (Peter McCue-Pet by Old Fred) and Marshall Peavy on Night (Smokey Reed-Nancy Brown by Dan) in 1927



COURTESY OF BILL BONHAM

Marshall Peavy's wife, Mavis, in 1960



The information on the back of this photo dated November 20, 1932, reads: James Goodwin Hall, aviator who set several speed records in 1931 when he was flying for the Crusaders for the Repeal of the 18th amendment, pictured with his bride, the former Miss Anne Valliant Burnett of Fort Worth, Texas. They were married in the Municipal Building after which a quiet ceremony was held at Mr. Hall's home. After trying to elude newspapermen, the happy pair sailed for Italy aboard the SS Orient. During the World War, Mr. Hall served in the 11th Escadrille. The bride is the granddaughter of the late Capt. S. Burk Burnett, cattleman, and inherited a large portion of the estate about 10 years ago, estimated at \$20,000,000.

Burnett Ranches

IMAGINE BEING AT THE CENTER OF THE DISCUSSION REGARDING the founding of a breed registry that became the American Quarter Horse Association. That's where Anne Burnett Tandy found herself on the evening of March 14, 1940, in her Fort Worth, Texas, home. The heiress to Samuel Burnett's Four Sixes Ranch, "Miss Anne" had just as much of a stake in the proposed registry as every other rancher in the room. Among the well-known champion racers and show horses acquired by or bred on the Four Sixes were Grey Badger II and Hollywood Gold. Miss Anne became nationally famous as a judge and breeder.

These three ranches are among the 16 breeders represented in "Breeding a Legacy: 75 Years of American Quarter Horses," a new exhibit at the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum in Amarillo. The exhibit will run through July 25. A traveling exhibit will also be showcased throughout the year at AQHA shows and events. This exhibit will feature biographical panels and photographs of each of the ranches. For more information on "Breeding a Legacy: 75 Years of American Quarter Horses," visit www.quarterhorsemuseum.com. 📷

This exhibit is funded in part by Dr. Kent Roberts and Ilene Roberts Balliett Foundation. Additional funding comes from Haythorn Land & Cattle Co., Waggoner Ranch and the E. Paul and Helen Buck Waggoner Foundation.

Insight From the Archives



WANT AN ADDITIONAL INSIGHT INTO THE Moore Ranch? We found one in the 1952 issue of *The Quarter Horse Journal*. More than 60 years ago, the Journal wrote an intriguing story on the ranch, which was then standing the important early sire Brush Mount. The story is reprinted in the August 2014 digital edition of *America's Horse*. Here's an excerpt:

Brush Mount is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Kelley Moore, Raton, New Mexico, and is going to be given a chance to really improve on his record as a sire of running Quarter Horses. Big, soft-spoken Kelley Moore – his wife prefers to call him Landon – has a very intelligent and well-thought-out Quarter Horse breeding program going, and it is bound to produce results.

Kelley grew up with horses and has been handling them since he was big enough to climb a fence and jump on one. He also was born on the ranch he now operates, which sure enough makes him a native of the Raton country. His mother, Cora Gillispie, was brought to the Raton by her parents by ox team when she was 4 years old, and soon after they arrived, her family settled on the present ranch. Cora grew up, married Mr. Moore, brought Kelley into the world and lived to be 80 years old. She spent her lifetime on the Moore ranch.

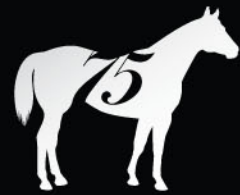


AQHA FILE PHOTO

Mr. and Mrs. Landon K. Moore hold their stallion, Brush Mount. He is the grandsire of Maddon's Bright Eyes, who was later inducted into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame.

Kelley and Mary Moore took over the ranch several years ago and are making a great success of it.

To access the August digital edition, as well as others from the archives, log in with your AQHA ID number and PIN at www.aqha.com/americanhorse.



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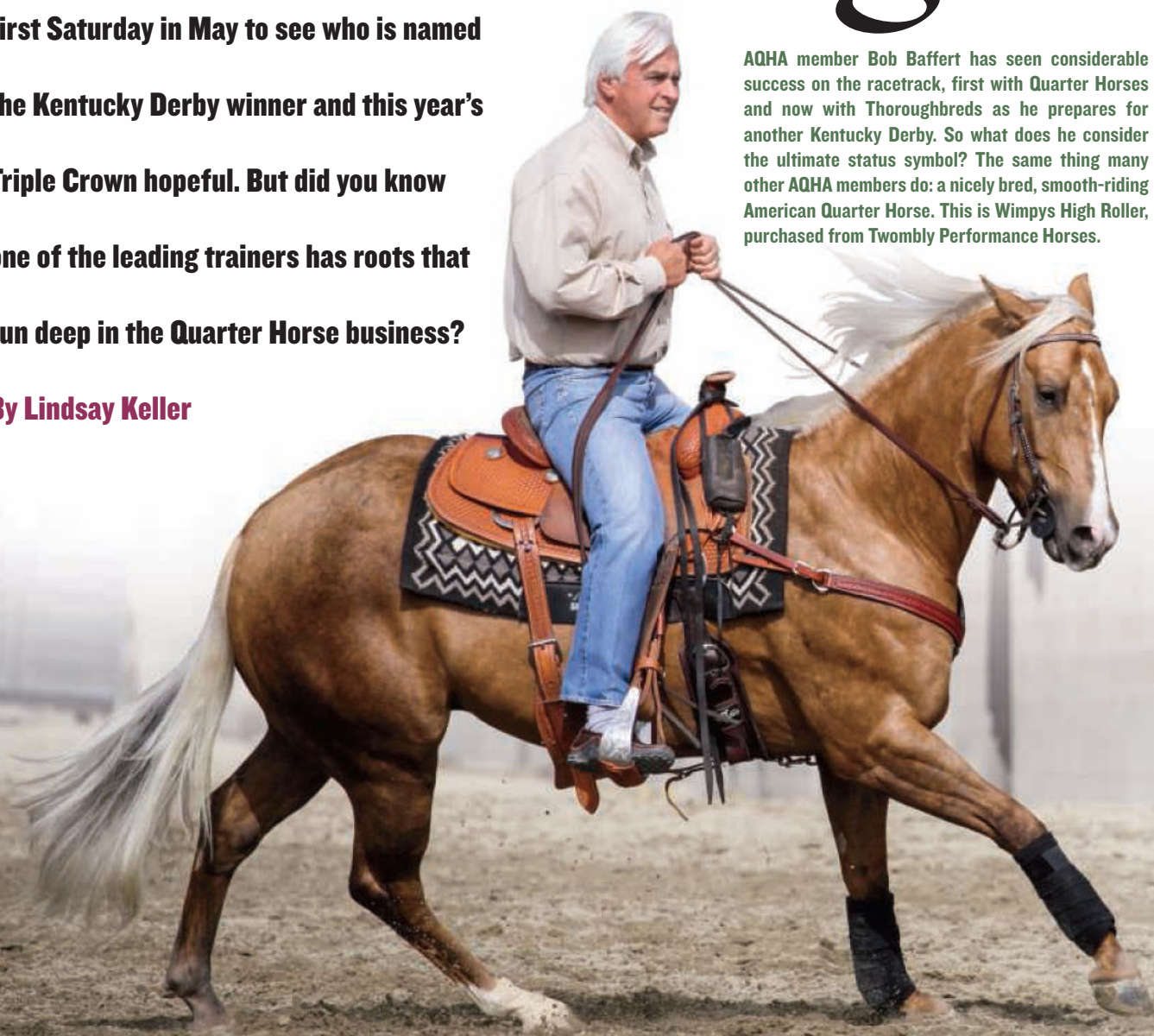
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Where the **Journey** Began

If you are like many horse lovers, your eyes will be glued to the television on the first Saturday in May to see who is named the Kentucky Derby winner and this year's Triple Crown hopeful. But did you know one of the leading trainers has roots that run deep in the Quarter Horse business?

By Lindsay Keller

AQHA member Bob Baffert has seen considerable success on the racetrack, first with Quarter Horses and now with Thoroughbreds as he prepares for another Kentucky Derby. So what does he consider the ultimate status symbol? The same thing many other AQHA members do: a nicely bred, smooth-riding American Quarter Horse. This is Wimpys High Roller, purchased from Twombly Performance Horses.



Wimpys High Roller, a son of Wimpys Little Step, may have been bred for the performance arena, but he's shining now on the racetrack, serving as a pony horse for some young stars in the Thoroughbred racing world. Here, he's escorting American Pharoah, one of the favorites for this year's Kentucky Derby, which will be May 2.



ZOE METZ PHOTOGRAPHY

THREE KENTUCKY DERBY WINNERS. FIVE PREAKNESS Stakes winners. One Belmont Stakes winner. Two Kentucky Oaks winners. Ten Breeder's Cup race winners. And two Dubai World Cup winners. This Thoroughbred trainer's resume is impressive to say the least. And who does he give the credit to for giving him a start in the racing industry? A band of Quarter Horse broodmares in Patagonia, Arizona.

It's in His Blood

BILL BAFFERT AND HIS WIFE, ELLIE, RAISED THEIR SEVEN children on a 240-acre cattle and Quarter Horse ranch near the Arizona-Mexico border. Their son Bob would eventually take his father's passion for the horse racing business to a level most people can only dream about.

"Our mares were all by Parker's Trouble (Ed Echols-Little Nellie Bars by Three Bars (TB)), and we crossed them with running-bred stallions and got into the racing business when I was just a little kid," the legendary trainer says. "I loved Quarter Horses, and I loved to be at the track with my dad. I would do whatever it took – groom, exercise,

jockey, whatever – to make sure my time was spent on the racetrack."

In addition to helping with the horses that were currently running, as a child, Bob also rode several of the horses that had retired from the track. He says he will never forget an appropriately named home-raised gelding, Baffert's Heller, who was out of one of those Parker's Trouble mares and by a son of Ed Echols.

"He was a beautiful dark chestnut, and he had a little success on the track, but boy did he have an attitude," Bob says with a chuckle. "He became my saddle horse after his racing career, and he taught me a lot of hard lessons. At first, I was terrified of him, but he taught me so much about training horses at such a young age. When I finally earned his respect, I was probably 14, and he became one of my favorite horses and still is today."

Bob shared his father's passion for the business and says his lifelong love affair with horses and horse racing has never left him.

"Horse racing is just like an alcohol or drug addiction. Once it gets in your blood, you are hooked. And fortunately there is no rehab for having a passion for horses," Bob says.



Before Bob bought This Whiz Shines in December, the Shining Spark grandson had earned some money in the National Reining Horse Association. Now, he's helping Thoroughbreds accrue earnings on the racetrack.

Not Good Enough to Be a Jockey

EVEN TODAY, BOB STILL HAS A GREAT ADMIRATION for some of the “old school” Quarter Horse jockeys. He says American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame jockey Bobby Adair is one he particularly idolized as a young man.

“I wanted to be just like Bobby. He was an amazing jockey and an amazing athlete, and I wanted to be like him so badly when I was young,” Bob says.

Although it seemed unfortunate then, Bob’s physical build did not fit the bill of a great jockey, and it was his idol who helped him realize he might want to try his hand in a different facet of the racing business.

“I was jockeying a few horses at Sunland Park, and I remember Bobby Adair asking me if I was going to go to Los Alamitos for the summer, and I told him, ‘No, I am not good enough.’ And he said, ‘If you don’t think you’re good enough, you need to quit because that is the best way to get killed out here.’ I went home and thought about what he said and how dangerous a jockey’s career was and decided he was right. And I didn’t have the body for being a jockey. So I quit the next day and started thinking about training,” Bob says.

Training the Quarters

BOB GOT HIS TRAINER’S LICENSE IN 1971 AND WAS training Quarter Horses full time by 1978. And not just training them from the rail. When he first started, he was actually breaking most of the horses he would eventually race.

“I used to break my own, and that taught me horsemanship,” Bob says. “That is a real competitive edge, I think. To go through experiences that give you roots and a foundation to be a good trainer and also a good horseman. There is so much more to this game than just getting them in condition.”

Being the horseman he is, Bob really valued getting to watch some of the AQHA legends develop their racing careers during his time on the quarter-mile tracks.

“When I was training, I got to watch and occasionally got beat by some of the greatest Quarter Horses of all time. Dash For Cash, Bugs Alive In 75, Special Effort, Easy Jet, First Down Dash – I will always remember and admire those legendary horses,” he says.

Out of his training barn, his personal favorite was a 1983 palomino gelding named Gold Coast Express by the influential Quarter Horse stallion Moon Lark out of Kiptys Express by the Thoroughbred stallion Kiptydoo. This gelding would become the 1986 AQHA world champion and win the Champion of Champions title – a prestigious stakes race for older horses – later in his career. Bob also trained 1988 champion 3-year-old, champion 3-year-old gelding and Champion of Champions winner Shawnes Favorite.

Another notable horse that raced under Bob's direction was Holland Ease (First Down Dash-Easy Henryetta by Easy Jet). Although the stallion did not win a world championship, he went on to sire Corona Cartel (Holland Ease-Corona Chick by Chick's Beduino), the leading living AQHA sire of all-time.

Bob made the switch to training Thoroughbred racehorses full time in 1991 after several years training both breeds, but says he still makes a point to keep up with the Quarter Horse industry and watches the big races every year.

A Whole New World

DESPITE HIS SUCCESS IN THE QUARTER HORSE RACING WORLD, there was no red carpet laid down for him when he entered the Thoroughbred business full time.

"When I moved to Santa Anita with the Thoroughbreds, I couldn't even get to the boxed seat area of the track," Bob says. "I had to watch all of my horses run from down below. The Thoroughbred world was tough on a guy wearing a cowboy hat and boots."

In just a few short years, Bob Baffert became a name everyone in the Thoroughbred racing business knew. Bob went on to win three consecutive Eclipse Awards as outstanding trainer in 1997, 1998 and 1999 and was inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in 2009.

He has trained horses that even casual racing fans have heard of, including Silver Charm, Real Quiet, War Emblem, Lookin At Lucky, Point Given and more recently Bodemeister and Paynter.

Bob also has two of the favorites for this year's Kentucky Derby under his care – American Pharoah and Dortmund.

Staying True to His Roots

ALTHOUGH YOU WON'T BE SEEING BOB IN A COWBOY hat on Derby Day, he has not forgotten his cowboy roots.

"All the trainers in the Quarter Horse racing business ride a beautiful pony horse. But in the Thoroughbred business, the status symbol seems to be who drives the fanciest car. I still care about riding a good-looking Quarter Horse," Bob says.

Bob has always been known for having a keen eye for a good horse, regardless of the breed. And that applies to his saddle horses, as well.

"I love to buy a good-minded, good-looking Quarter Horse gelding for my saddle horses," says Bob, who has bought his last two saddle geldings out of the Twombly Performance Horse sale held in Las Vegas during the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. "I do a lot of research before the sale, and I get really excited about buying the ones I am interested in. Someday, I hope to have time to actually go to a sale instead of bidding over the phone."

Bob currently owns two Quarter Horse geldings that he and other members of his staff ride around the track and use as pony horses: Wimpys High Roller, or "Sunny," a 2009 palomino gelding by Wimpys Little Step out of Shining High Roller by Shining Spark, and This Whiz Shines, a 2009 buckskin gelding by Shiners Chex Olena out of Si Rositas Whiz by Whiz N Chex, whom Bob calls "Smokey."

"Racing fans will probably see Smokey on Derby Day," Bob says. "He will either be ponying one of my horses to the starting gates or might be ridden by one of the news anchors for the horseback interview with the winning jockey."

The Quarter Horse Connection

EVEN IF YOU DON'T CATCH A GLIMPSE OF SMOKEY DURING THE broadcast of the Kentucky Derby, you will undoubtedly see Bob. And perhaps when you see him, you will envision that band of Parker's Trouble broodmares out in the Arizona desert that started his career.

"It has been quite an adventure, and if it hadn't been for those little Quarter Horse broodmares my father bought, winning the Kentucky Derby would still just be a dream for me," Bob says. "That is where this whole journey began." 📍

Lindsay Keller is a freelance writer and former AQHA Publications intern from Ringwood, Oklahoma.



During Bob's Quarter Horse days, one of his favorite athletes was Gold Coast Express, a Baffert trainee who became the 1986 AQHA world champion racehorse.

AQHA FILE PHOTO



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Skip The Finances really excelled at challenging patterns, like the one at the Pendleton Round-Up.

ZOEY:

The Unconventional Barrel Horse



Small in stature but big in try, Skip The Finances became a barrel racing champion without ever losing sight of her ranching roots.

By Lindsay Keller

“WHEN MY HUSBAND TOLD ME HE KNEW HIS 2-YEAR-OLD RANCH mare, Zoey, was going to become a great barrel horse, I thought, ‘Oh, another roper has a barrel horse,’” Jody Sheffield says. “She looked like a BLM mustang, was bred at the time and had a badly cut leg. Not exactly the traditional makings of an outstanding barrel prospect.”

Maybe it was the newlywed’s willingness to entertain her husband’s seemingly crazy ideas, or maybe it was fate, but however it came to be, Jody is glad she listened to Jesse and gave Skip The Finances (Financially-Skip Chris Coy by Skipbar Crystola), a shot at becoming a barrel horse.

“As it turned out, he knew what he was talking about, and together, in the middle of the Utah desert, we watched a miracle unfold,” Jody says.

Unconventional Start

THE TYPICAL BARREL RACING FUTURITY HOPEFUL IS STARTED under saddle as a 2-year-old, taught the pattern and hauled for exhibitions as a 3-year-old, and by the time the prospect’s 4-year-old year rolls around, he or she is ready to hit the big time.

Zoey’s path to success was drastically different. Jesse’s late brother, Joe Ben, started her under saddle as a 2-year-old, and she quickly became Jesse’s mount of choice for daily ranch work, as well as his roping and hunting hobbies. As a 3-year-old, Zoey joined the broodmare band and foaled a filly named Gold Dash Doc Peppy (TTC Peppy Ike-Skip The Finances by Financially), whom the Sheffields still own and compete on today. With more experiences under her belt than most horses get in their lifetime, Zoey entered the barrel horse world as a 4-year-old.

Unconventional Lessons

“ZOEY WORKED FOR A LIVING,” JODY SAYS. “SHE WAS THE MOST dependable horse in our herd, and we needed her on the ranch during the week. So barrel racing got to be her reward. Compared to a day’s worth of ranch work, going to a barrel racing jackpot seemed like a special treat to her.”

Since she was working out in the Utah desert near their home in Hanksville, Zoey spent most of her time learning the pattern out in the wide open spaces.

“We would set up my barrels anywhere – on hills, in bushes, down in gullies – and let her run and hunt for them,” Jody says. “Sometimes we might set the barrels 200 yards apart or just use bushes instead of barrels, but that was what made it fun for her. We turned it into an obstacle course, and she craved it.”

Spectacular Talent

JODY ENTERED ZOEY AT HER FIRST BARREL RACE IN MAY OF HER 4-year-old year. She was half a second off the winning time. By October, the gritty bay mare was winning almost every race she entered.

“We decided to let her spend that winter on the ranch away from the pattern so she had time to absorb everything she learned,” Jody says. “That’s not what most people would have done, but we wanted to keep barrel racing fun for her and not make it seem like work.”

When Zoey went back to barrel racing the following spring, Jody says she could tell the mare was excited. Unfortunately, she suffered a major injury shortly after the season started. Zoey tore the ligament that held her pelvis to her spine and was laid off from all riding for the next 10 months.

“It was a pretty major setback,” Jody says. “But she had given us every reason to believe in her already, and that belief wasn’t going to vanish because of an injury.”

Rodeo Ready

WHEN ZOEY, NOW 6 YEARS OLD, FINALLY RETURNED TO THE arena in 2010, she was ready to make up for lost time. By summer, Zoey had become Jody’s first-string mount and was making an impression on the rodeo trail.

“She won the first rodeo I ever entered her in,” Jody says. “There were times that year when I would think ‘What are you doing?’ as I warmed up my young mare at major rodeos, but Zoey believed in us, and we kept believing in her.”

The third rodeo Jody ran Zoey in was one of the biggest in



Skip The Finances and her daughter, Gold Dash Doc Peppy, have produced well-rounded foals that can go from gathering cows in the mountains to the rodeo arena without missing a beat.

her Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association circuit. The Reno, Nevada, rodeo draws more than 100,000 fans into its 10-day annual event and pays out one of the bigger purses the contestants see during the year.

“Zoey ended up fourth in the average and first in the short-go at Reno,” Jody says. “She showed us there that the sky was the limit and we had the horse to take us to the top if that is where we wanted to go.”

Later that year, Zoey added another major rodeo accomplishment to her credentials when she won the Pendleton Round-Up in Oregon.

“I didn’t even really think to enter Pendleton until Jesse dared me to,” Jody says with a smile. “And the week before the rodeo, our truck broke down, so Pendleton went from a cool dare to a need-to-have win before I even walked in the arena.”

The setup at Pendleton is not your standard barrel pattern. The arena is more than half an acre in size, and the pattern is one-eighth of a mile from start to finish. To give you some perspective, the world record on the standard barrel racing pattern is 16.586 seconds. Jody and Zoey completed their first round run at Pendleton in 29.10 seconds and their short-go run in 28.32 seconds to win the rodeo.

“When I made my runs at Pendleton, my game plan was just to let Zoey do what she does best because we couldn’t afford to safety up and she knew it,” Jody says. “It was like she went back to her days of running the pattern out in the desert. She ran hard, and she hunted the barrels despite how far apart they were and had fun doing it.”

Their win at Pendleton not only paid to replace their truck but also placed the duo high enough in the 2010 year-end standings to qualify them for another big PRCA rodeo the following spring, Rodeo Houston.

“When we made the final four at Houston, I was star struck,” Jody says. “I could not believe Zoey and I were competing against Lisa Lockhart, Sherry Cervi and Brittany Pozzi. After I won, it was a surreal mix of emotions. Our

little ranch mare never ceased to amaze us.”

The duo had barely come off their Houston high when yet another injury sent Zoey to the sidelines. The snap on Zoey’s lead rope broke, and she got loose and ran almost a mile before getting tangled up in a pile of wire. She cut her leg badly and despite Jody and Jesse’s best efforts spent most of the year battling pain and infection.

“We had won enough money throughout 2011 to make the (Wrangler National Finals Rodeo), but two weeks before we were supposed to leave, Zoey’s cut was so infected she could barely walk,” Jody says. “We were out of conventional treatment options, so Jesse decided it was time to hit her ‘reset’ button and took her back to the Utah desert where she grew up.”

Jesse rode the mare through the deep desert sand and grazed her on her favorite treat – Indian rice grass – for a week.

“We knew we had to take her back to where it all started,” Jody says. “And we just kept believing that she would be ready for Vegas. And it worked.”

Making the Finals

WITHIN A COUPLE OF DAYS OF ARRIVING IN LAS VEGAS FOR THE 2011 NFR, it was apparent that neither Zoey nor Jesse were cut out for the confines of a city. While most NFR barrel horses spend their days being pampered in preparation for the night’s performance, Zoey preferred to spend her days working.

“Zoey had a different version of pampering than most horses,” Jody says. “She was a ranch horse at heart, and she wanted to go work. Every day during the NFR, Jesse took her on a 10-mile mountain ride out in the Nevada desert. To the two of them, ‘going to work’ is the best way to stay in their element.”

Zoey proved she could cover rough country by day and run with the top barrel racing horses by night. Jody and Zoey placed in five of the 10 rounds and finished sixth in the NFR average. They earned \$118,218, placing them eighth in the year-end standings.



When Jesse Sheffield told his new bride, Jody, he was sure that his young ranch mare, Zoey, was going to make a barrel horse, she was skeptical. But, as it turns out, he was right.

Zoey's Plan

JODY CONTINUED TO RUN ZOEY AT RODEOS FOR THE NEXT several years, placing in the top 35 in the world every year. But ultimately, the Sheffields were working toward moving Zoey back to the breeding shed to raise another foal.

"After Pendleton last year, we decided to give her time off and were planning to raise a baby out of her this spring," Jody says. "But in Zoey fashion, she was planning to do something bigger than we were imagining."

During the 2014 NFR, Jody and Jesse went back to Las Vegas so Jesse could compete in the World Series of Team Roping championships that also take place in Las Vegas in December.

"When we got home, we went out and fed her and loved on her for a while, as always. She was happy and content and nothing seemed out of place. The next morning, she was dead in her pasture, without ever being sick or injured,"

Jody says. "No matter how you look at it, she's gone. But because of her success, she gave us a chance to do it all again, and this time do it even better. That's our only way to honor and thank her."

The Next Generation

JODY HAS SEVERAL BARREL RACING PROSPECTS SHE HAD BEEN seasoning prior to Zoey's death, with most of the youngsters being of Zoey's lineage.

"I just kept pushing the young horses to the back burner because I counted on Zoey so much," Jody says. "But she was dramatic, so I guess she decided it was time for me to be forced to jump in with both feet. And saying goodbye would have been too hard, so I am glad she went the way she did. In true Zoey fashion, she went fast and with a purpose. Although we don't understand now, we are excited to see how her plan for us unfolds." 🐾

The Sheffield Method

"LOTS OF PEOPLE MISS OUT ON HORSES LIKE ZOEY BECAUSE they are after a certain lineage, size, color or gender and are not putting enough emphasis on the horse's heart and desire," Jody says. "Just look at Scamper. If Charmayne James had been focused on finding the hottest barrel racing bloodlines, she never would have rode a feedlot cow-boy horse to 10 consecutive world championships."

Jody's current string of horses is made up of mares, geldings, middle-aged horses, futurity prospects, cow-bred and race-bred bloodlines, as well as all shapes, sizes and colors.

Inspired by Zoey's out-of-the-ordinary bloodlines, Jody and Jesse have come to prefer a mix of racing and cow horse bloodlines, a combination they call the "running cow horse."

"We don't want just a barrel horse or just a rope horse. We want a running cow horse that can work on the ranch, rope and run barrels," Jody says.

Another way the Sheffields' method is different is that they don't "train" their horses. They let them learn through experience.

"They have been roped and ranched on and know how to handle themselves in and out of the arena. Part of what made Zoey the horse she was is she knew how to take care of herself and me whether she was running at Pendleton or gathering cows in the mountains. We teach all of our horses those same life skills," Jody says.

To learn more about Jody and Jesse's operation, and to watch videos of Zoey running at Pendleton and the NFR, visit www.jmoneyhorses.com.



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ABC/RICHARD CARLSON



Before the episode films, AQHA member Donald Eich gives a quick riding lesson to bachelor Chris Soules, who is a farmer but not necessarily a horseman.

A Four-Legged Match-Maker

**An American Quarter Horse takes a star
turn on “The Bachelor” TV series.**

By Tom Moates

“THE BACHELOR” IS A REALITY TV SERIES ON ABC that’s known for featuring pretty people. But in a recent episode, one of the most attractive characters happened to have four legs and an AQHA pedigree.



ABC/RICHARD CARLSON

Chris Soules rides EC Docs Bullet through South Dakota's Black Hills National Forest during a date with Becca Tilley.

In February, an episode of “The Bachelor” focused on a backwoods trail-riding rendezvous. The premise of the long-running show is that an eligible man begins with 25 bachelorettes and, through a string of dates in exotic locales, eliminates candidates until he gets down to one to whom he proposes. In this horse-themed episode, the couple (Chris Soules and Becca Tilley) packed into the wilderness of South Dakota for a picnic that involved target shooting. There was, however, another kind of “Bullet” on the trek ... EC Docs Bullet, an American Quarter Horse owned by Donald Eich.

Donald, an AQHA member, was part of a group of South Dakotans contacted by the show's producers to help find a filming location and suitable horses for the date.

“They were looking for a place to shoot, and they were looking for a big horse that two people could ride,” Donald says. “They wanted to ride double in the beginning, but that didn't happen. They ended up putting the gal on her own horse, too. We went around and took pictures of all kinds of different places. We ran around one day with them looking at different film sites. They chose Dalton Lake.”

Dalton Lake is in the Black Hills National Forest midway between Deadwood and Rapid City. Donald owns the Little EC Ranch, which is located halfway between Rapid City and Sturgis, 30 miles from Deadwood. Donald has six broodmares and a stallion, a son of Paddys Irish Whiskey named Paddys Doco Whiskey. He was bred by the Zoetis-AQHA Best Remuda Award-winning S Ranch Ltd. of Montana.

“I sell a few babies, and I sell a few started horses,” Donald says. “Every year, I pick one or two I want to keep, and then

I sell the rest. I bought my first registered Quarter Horse mare in 1978. She was an own daughter of a horse called Roan Bar, a horse up here in South Dakota. I'd had horses before that, but not registered Quarter Horses.”

Donald's intention was to begin breeding Quarter Horses. The venture worked well, and the business has been in continuous operation for more than 25 years. At the same time Donald was getting started, his brother-in-law went to Pitzer Ranch in Nebraska and bought a stallion.

“We started crossing on that horse, a Watch Joe Jack-bred stud,” he says. “I register horses every year. We don't show. We just do ranch work, trail ride, go to every branding we can go to, trail cattle wherever we can trail them – just enjoy them. I start my own colts, and (my son Keith and I) started that Bullet horse.”

“The Bachelor” crew “wanted something that looked good,” so Donald figured Bullet would fit the bill. The gelding is a handsome palomino, 15 years old, 16 hands and weighing in at nearly 1,300 pounds. He is by Shootin Gray by Winchester and out of one of Donald's Doc-Bar bred mares, Docs Shelleena.

“He's a pretty lazy, laid-back horse,” Donald says. “He's a little bit spoiled because my daughter used to put her girlfriends on this horse, and the horse would get away with all kinds of things. He doesn't get used as much as he needs to. My son has drug cattle (to the branding fire) with him, but he kind of has his own mind sometimes. So, we started working with him a few weeks before this just to get his head straightened out a little bit. Because they wanted this thing to be ‘reality,’ they said, ‘No rehearsal.’

“We thought, ‘How's this going to work out?’

“We said, ‘Have these people ever ridden? Do they know what they're doing?’

“‘The Bachelor’ guy (Chris Soules), he had ridden some trail-ride horses. In the end, they did allow me to take him right before the shoot, get him on Bullet, and we rode up into the woods. He did good.”

When it was time for filming, Donald describes how it played out: “It was a one-on-one date. They pulled up in a van in the road. He's standing there in the middle of the road. She gets out. He takes her by the hand and leads her up into the timber there, and there's these two horses standing tied to a tree.”

Chris rode EC Docs Bullet, and his date, Becca, was provided with an unregistered buckskin Quarter Horse mare owned by AQHA member Barbara Jean Atchison of Blacktail Horseback Tours in Lead, South Dakota.

“Before that, we had legged up the horses,” Donald says. “They used a miniature burro as a pack animal, so we worked with him with the horse. Then we met them up there and waited. There was a lot of prep work, walking through (with producers saying), ‘We'll do this here ... this here’ They did quite a bit at that site. Rode the horse a couple of times, rode into the woods, shot some bottles, rode back down to a picnic site, they panned for gold.”

The episode that includes EC Docs Bullet is Season 19, Episode 6: “Week 6, Deadwood, S.D.” It aired on February 9.

If you're wondering how things turned out with Bullet's help in the match-making department, well, Becca did end up as one of two top finalists but lost in the final round to rival Whitney Bischoff. 🍷



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**An unexpected horse turns
out to be just the ticket for
this horse-loving teen.**

By Tom Moates

I Am AMERICA'S HORSE

ABOUT 12 YEARS AGO, TAYLOR MCNAIR thought she was done with horses.

“When I was 8 years old, ‘the only horse for me’ passed away,” Taylor says. “I thought I would never want to ride again, and at that point, I was just fine with that.”

But as time went on, she found herself riding any horse she could borrow. The love of horses had been deeply ingrained, since she had been riding since she was 4 and had been participating in local horse shows and Little Britches Rodeos.

So, five years after losing her first horse, Taylor, an AQHA member from Learned, Mississippi, was looking for a new mount of her own. At first, Sheza Ghetto Junebug was a loaner horse who came into her life by coincidence. The results, however, have been surprising and long lasting.

“In December 2010, I purchased a horse from a breeder in Port Allen,

Louisiana, Mr. Bill Peterson,” Taylor says. “At the time, that horse was 3, and she had to go to the trainer. She was there for a year or so, and Mr. Peterson gave me ‘Junebug’ just to keep me riding until my horse was finished.”

Taylor brought Junebug home in 2011. The horse she originally purchased (Baybee Drifter Kid) came home after training, and Taylor has been barrel racing on her, as well as other horses. But that never dampened her enthusiasm for Junebug.

When Taylor first laid eyes on Junebug, she admits she had her doubts.

“She’s really, really small (14.1 hands). I’m about 6 foot. I use her in barrel racing, and I have pictures of me going around a barrel, and it really looks like my feet are in the ground.”

Despite the height difference, their bond is unbreakable; and their success has been remarkable.

"I just wanted a horse," Taylor says, "and she was the one I was lucky enough to be given. She's really the one that started it all back. I guess I didn't choose her, she chose me."

Junebug and Taylor were active in the Mississippi Quarter Horse Youth Association, and in 2012 and 2013, they qualified for the Built Ford Tough AQHYA World Championship Show in stake racing.

"She won our southwest district 4-H stake race and qualified for the Mississippi 4-H horse show state championship in stakes. And I used her in high school rodeo. She got me a couple points in pole bending. I goat tied off of her. I did everything off of her. I also was a rodeo queen, so I used her for the horsemanship pattern portion, and also for the rodeos. She was really versatile for me. We did literally everything."

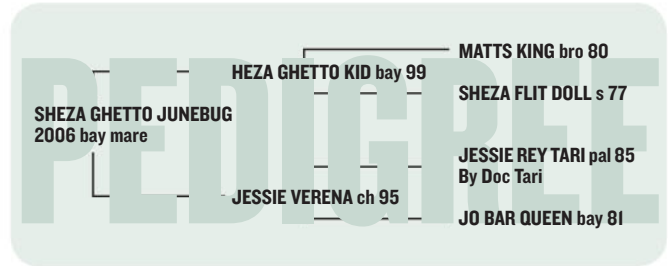
Taylor, with the help of Sheza Ghetto Junebug, was crowned Teen Miss Rodeo of the Mid-South 2013.

The horsemanship portion of the competition is 40 percent of the total score, Taylor says.

"They didn't announce who won the horsemanship, but I won the title, so I know that with Junebug's help, I was capable of that."

The biggest prize of all, however, came about a year ago when Bill Peterson surprised Taylor by sending her Junebug's papers and giving the horse to her.

Taylor, now 19 and a freshman at Mississippi State University,



laments that the school doesn't have a rodeo team and that she doesn't have Junebug or any horses with her. In fact, she is considering transferring to another school that has a rodeo team so she can ride during the school year. Taylor knows she and Junebug are ready to take on the collegiate competition.

"Goodness, she thinks she's way bigger than what she really is," Taylor says of her little mare. "I think a lot of people were surprised when we went to shows and (competed successfully against) these really tall horses that should outrun her – she just had that speed. She's definitely a spitfire!"

Tom Moates is a freelance writer from Floyd, Virginia. "I Am America's Horse" is a periodic feature that spotlights an American Quarter Horse who is making a difference in its owner's life. If you'd like to send in your horse's story, email us at aqhajrnl@aqha.org, and put "I Am America's Horse" in the subject line.



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¹Scott, Robert E. September 20, 2011. Growing U.S. trade deficit with China cost 2.8 million jobs between 2001 and 2010. Economic Policy Institute, Briefing Paper #323. Washington, D.C.: EPI.

A “Rusty” Treasure

This American Quarter Horse is as good as gold for three generations of the Eldridge family.

By Mary McCashin

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PASSING THINGS DOWN FROM GENERATION to generation is a fine western tradition, whether that “something” is bloodlines, spurs, passion or a stout sorrel American Quarter Horse. For steer wrestler Dakota Eldridge, it’s the latter that means the most to him.

Dakota is the proud owner of Mr Lightning Poco, aka “Rusty” (Swedes Jet On-Miss Poco Quincy by Poco Lighting Bar). To many, the simple sorrel with a star might look like just a solid ranch horse, but Dakota knows he is that and so much more.

Rusty was bred and raised by Dakota’s grandfather, who sold the horse to Dakota’s father as a 2-year-old. Dakota’s father then trained Rusty to be a head horse. When Dakota, now 23, was a senior in high school, the reins were passed on to him.

“He was my dad’s head horse forever. I used to go cowboy on him during the day, and my dad would take him to jackpots

at night,” Dakota says. When Dakota entered his senior year of high school, his rodeo horse was getting older, and he needed something younger and quicker. Dakota’s dad had always thought Rusty would make a good steer-wrestling horse, so they decided to give it a try.

“I took him in the indoor and ran him by a couple of steers. He never hesitated going by them,” Dakota says. “My dad had a few steers over there and told me to jump one on him. I told my dad we didn’t have a haze horse, and he suggested just running the steer down the wall and jumping him, so that’s what we did. I jumped probably two steers off him that day with no hazer. He ran right up there and worked awesome.”

So Dakota and his dad traded rides. “My dad always thought my old steer-wrestling horse made a nice horse, so we just swapped.”



Dakota Eldridge and Mr Lightning Poco ended 2014 in fifth place in the PRCA standings for steer wrestling, making the Eldridge family proud of their home-bred horse.

From the beginning, it seemed like a perfect pairing. The Elko, Nevada, cowboy not only ended up with a horse with natural talent, but plenty of overall talent, as well.

"I heeled off of him a lot that year, and we'd bulldog some, too. But he can go out and be a solid ranch horse and then show up in the Thomas & Mack (where the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo is held) and dominate."

Dakota started actively competing in steer wrestling and made the high school rodeo finals, finishing third.

"After that, I took him to college with me, made the college finals on him, and we've been on a roll ever since," Dakota says. He continued to use Rusty as a head horse as well, both at circuit finals and the college rodeo finals.

"I think he's a better horse because he's so well-rounded. I think any horse needs to be flexible. They need to have something else to do to keep their mind occupied and active. Most humans don't do the same thing at work every single day, which applies to a horse, too. Diversity can be such an ally. I still take him and cowboy on him. I treat him like a horse and let him have fun. I think if a guy is always trying to make his horse perfect all the time and doesn't allow his horse to be a horse, then it's working against the horse. Let

your horses go outside, give them other jobs, let them be horses. When Rusty gets in an arena, he still knows it's time to go to work."

Unfortunately for Dakota and Rusty, they work almost 365 days a year, crisscrossing the country from one rodeo to the next. The rodeo road can wear a cowboy and his horse down fairly quickly. Luckily for Dakota, Rusty has always been a great traveler.

"He's good about drinking and eating on the road, which is huge. I know he's going to take pretty good care of himself," Dakota says.

If anything, Rusty takes the road a little too well.

"He likes to eat, that's for sure! He's usually a little overweight, more than anything," Dakota says with a laugh.

But at least Dakota doesn't have to worry about Rusty not eating, drinking or adapting to new places well.

"He's an exceptional horse. I don't have to worry about him being by himself or not drinking when it's hot. He's really content on the road, despite the hectic pace of it all."

Dakota pays special attention to Rusty's diet and includes joint supplements to help the 16-year-old gelding as he ages.

"I do everything I can on my end to make sure he's taken care of and getting the vitamins and minerals he needs. He's No. 1 on my priority list."

Keeping Rusty's welfare at the top of his mind also causes the Nevada cowboy to make some tough choices. Despite being close with most of the top-ranked steer wrestlers, Dakota struggles with the idea of loaning Rusty to his friends.

At the 2014 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, Luke Branquinho rode Rusty to some big money, but beyond that, Dakota mainly keeps Rusty to himself.

"He means so much to me, and to have that horse give me

MR LIGHTNING POCO
1999 sorrel gelding

JET ON bay 66
By Jet Deck

SWEDES JET ON bay 77

DOBEYS ROCKETTE bay 72

POCO LIGHTNING BAR bay 76

MISS POCO QUINCY s 90

MISS QUINCY REBEL bay 86

everything, it's just hard to mount him out," Dakota says. "Anything can happen out there, and I'd like to make him last as long as possible."

Dakota knows that it'd be hard to find another horse as well rounded and laidback as Rusty.

"The runs are getting limited on him now. I want to be even more cautious with him since he's 16," Dakota says. "I just bought a horse that I think might be comparable. I'm always looking and have been looking for a while. There's just not going to be another Rusty. It's hard for me to find a horse I even want to spend my time on anymore. You can go see 10, and only one might be worth a chance. But I need to find something so I can save Rusty for the bigger runs of the year where it really counts."

Dakota notes that it's better to be picky when it comes to buying horses than to keep running through them.

"If I was home six months out of the year, I could get a young horse and train it. Unfortunately, that's just not an option, so it's pretty limited what you can do."

But for Dakota, it all comes back to the same foundation, let horses be horses and teach them to be versatile.

"I always head or heel off my bulldogging horses. I think a horse needs to be broke in multiple disciplines. They need to be a good all-around horse more than anything. Some people

say they have a horse they think will be a good steer-wrestling horse, but then you can't enter in anything else on him because he's horrible at everything else. You want a versatile ranch horse that's an athlete."

2015 holds a new set of goals for Dakota and Rusty. Dakota hopes to qualify for the 2015 NFR by the end of summer, being selective in his runs with Rusty and making each one count.

"I look at my Finals last year, and I know it wasn't that good of a Finals. I was still the third-highest money winner, and the year before, I was the second-highest money winner. Rusty and I have gotten through two very different Finals, so I think we're both prepared for whatever comes our way."

By the end of the 2014 National Finals, Rusty had carried Dakota and Luke to earn roughly \$200,000.

One thing is certain, though, Dakota and Rusty have formed a partnership over the years. They both take care of each other, and for Dakota, it has been a unique opportunity to compete and work with "a horse of a lifetime." For Rusty, he's lucky to have been passed down through three generations and found a cowboy who goes above and beyond to make sure he has the best life possible. 🐾

Mary McCashin is a freelance writer and rodeo fan from Weatherford, Texas.

Dakota won Round 9 of the 2014 NFR and tied for first place in the seventh round. Round winners at the NFR mount up on stock contractor horses to take a victory lap. Dakota ended up third in the average.



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THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE JOURNAL IS OFTEN CONSIDERED the big-sister publication to *America's Horse*, but there's no sibling rivalry here. In fact, we want to make sure our readers – all AQHA members – are well-acquainted with her! The *Journal* is renowned for award-winning coverage of shows and the business side of the horse industry. But there's a lot more to the magazine than that! Thumbing through recent issues, we found inspiring stories and helpful articles that would appeal to anybody who wants to be a better rider and owner of his or her American Quarter Horse. And that includes just about all of us, doesn't it?

To subscribe, go to www.aqha.com/journal. You'll also get access to the great digital edition.

Here are some of the things you won't want to miss in the pages of the May *Journal*:



ANGOLITE MAGAZINE

A Different Kind of Ranch

WHEN YOU THINK "AQHA RANCHING HERITAGE BREEDER," ODDS are you think about big country under blue skies, things that epitomize freedom. But there's one Ranching Heritage Breeder that has a different take. Welcome to Prison Enterprises, which allows inmates in the Louisiana State Penitentiary system to work with horses, starting on the ground floor of breeding marketable mounts.

Is It Western or Is It Dressage?

SO, YOU MAY HAVE HEARD ABOUT the fast-growing sport of western dressage, but what is it, exactly? Andrea Caudill, editor of the *Q-Racing Journal*, answers that question for readers, not long after she and her American Quarter Horse Haidaseeker Playboy won two world championships in the Western Dressage Association of America.



SHANE RUX

A Great Ride

PAUL GONYA HAS HAD A LOT OF laughs during his 25-year showing career, and as it comes to a close, he wrote about some of his escapades in this month's Amateur Spotlight. Whether it was trying to open the rope gate with the wrong hand in trail or selling a Ford truck (with deep discounts) during the few minutes he was babysitting the Ford booth, Paul is sure to make you laugh along with him.



COURTESY OF PAUL GONYA

Broadening the Gene Pool

THE SPERM, EMBRYOS AND OOCYTES FROM FOALS BORN IN 2015 OR after will not be able to be used beyond two calendar years following that animal's death or sterilization, based on a new rule approved by the AQHA Board of Directors at the 2015 AQHA Convention in March. ❏

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† For information about the rates, fees, other costs and benefits associated with the use of this Rewards card, or to apply, go to the website listed above or write to P.O. Box 15020, Wilmington, DE 19850. The 2% cash back on grocery store purchases and 3% cash back on gas purchases applies to the first \$1,500 in combined purchases in these categories each quarter. After that the base 1% earn rate applies to those purchases.

† You will qualify for \$100 bonus cash rewards if you use your new credit card account to make any combination of Purchase transactions totaling at least \$500 (exclusive of any credits, returns and adjustments) that post to your account within 90 days of the account open date. Limit one (1) bonus cash rewards offer per new account. This one-time promotion is limited to new customers opening an account in response to this offer. Other advertised promotional bonus cash rewards offers can vary from this promotion and may not be substituted. Allow 8-12 weeks from qualifying for the bonus cash rewards to post to your rewards balance. The value of this reward may constitute taxable income to you. You may be issued an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099 (or other appropriate form) that reflects the value of such reward. Please consult your tax advisor, as neither Bank of America, its affiliates, nor their employees provide tax advice.

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INTRODUCING CRAIG HUFFHINES



BECKY NEWELL

AQHA MEMBERS, MEET YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: Craig Huffhines.

Craig began his duties April 1. He came to AQHA from the American Hereford Association, where he served as executive vice president.

He was selected after a five-month, extensive search effort. The six members of the search committee, as well as the AQHA Executive Committee, believe that Craig, with more than 17 years' experience leading the Hereford Association, possesses the strong leadership skills and experience to move AQHA forward.

Applications for the executive vice president job were received from more than 40 people.

Craig brings recorded success in areas such as turning around a 30-year decline in registration and breed popularity, balancing budgets during lean industry years, developing a new branded-beef enterprise, executing a revised governance structure to meet the demands of the 21st century and reinvigorating interest among youth, also while managing the American Hereford Association staff and growing the Hereford Research and Youth foundations.

Look for a more detailed story on Craig in an upcoming issue of *America's Horse*.



BECKY NEWELL

The members of the 2015-2016 AQHA Executive Committee were elected at the 2015 AQHA Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. From left, they are First Vice President Sandy Arledge; Member Dr. Jim Heird; AQHA President Dr. Glenn Blodgett; Member Stan Weaver; Second Vice President Ralph Seekins. This five-person committee is responsible for implementing important decisions by AQHA members through the Association's board of directors.

AQHA's Financial Health

AQHA'S CORE NUMBERS FOR 2014 TELL A DISTINCT STORY.

"We are coming out of some of the toughest years in AQHA history, and we're moving in the right direction," AQHA Treasurer and Acting Chief Operating Officer Trent Taylor told AQHA members in March at the 2015 AQHA Convention in Fort Worth, Texas.

In 2014, registration numbers were up at 83,146 from 74,114 in 2013, 10,000 more than expected. That's a 12 percent increase.

Transfers were at 123,516 in 2014, up from 122,864 in 2013.

For the first time since 2004, stallion breeding reports through the deadline show an increase, although slight, in the number of mares bred.

We had an increase in the total number of entries at our shows. Equestrians With Disabilities led the way with the biggest percentage increase, followed by youth and amateur entries. Combined show and special-event entries reached 963,525.

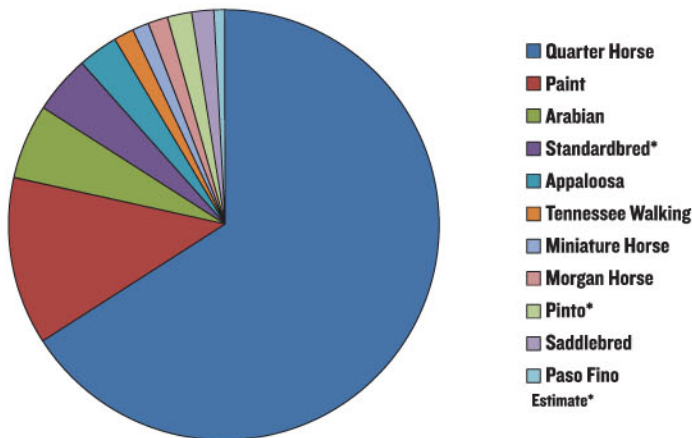
In racing, total purses for American Quarter Horses ticked up seven-tenths of a percent to more than \$126.5 million, and average handle increased eight-tenths of a percent to nearly \$292 million, which is a true reflection on the health of American Quarter Horse racing. Better news for owners came in the form of an increase of average purse per race (up 5.3 percent to nearly \$16,000) and average earnings per starter (up 1.6 percent to \$8,100).

Other positive news: AQHA's audited financials show an increase in assets of \$6.6 million.

Net assets increased by almost \$5 million; \$1.9 million of that was the Association by itself.

For a more in-depth look at AQHA's financial picture, see the May issue of *The American Quarter Horse Journal*. Visit www.aqha.com/journal to subscribe. Or, to see the full AQHA annual report, go to www.aqha.com/annualreport. The entire consolidated financial statements are included in the annual report on the website. The audited financial statements are also available individually on the AQHA website. In addition, AQHA directors receive quarterly financial statements to keep them informed on the financial status of AQHA so they will have that information to pass along to the members.

BY BECKY NEWELL



"Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words," says AQHA Treasurer and Acting Chief Operating Officer Trent Taylor. "Here is a pie chart showing our memberships in blue compared to the other 10 equine breed associations' membership numbers."

Saddle Up and Celebrate AQHA's 75th Anniversary



LOCATED IN PICTURESQUE EMINENCE, Missouri, the AQHA 75th anniversary celebration is one you don't want to miss!

Join us in celebrating our 75th anniversary with a week of festive fun from June 30 to July 4. Hosted by Cross Country Trail Rides, the weekend will be packed with activities like swimming, fishing, concerts, dances and the largest fireworks display in the area. You can bring your horse and join us in a week of trail riding on more than 300 miles of forested and riverside trails. A covered arena is also available to riders.

Admission is \$240 for adults, \$175 for children ages 6-11, \$80 for children ages 3-5, and children 2 and under are \$15 each. Your admission covers your meals, entertainment and camping. There is a \$20 additional fee for a stall.

Camping and stalls are available on a first-come basis. You may arrive as early as June 27 at no extra charge; however, meals will not be provided until July 1.

AQHA will also be hosting a trail challenge on July 3. This is the only event that requires an additional fee. The cost for AQHA members is \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth participants. Non-members can participate for just \$50 for adults and \$20 for youth. All breeds, all ages and all disciplines are encouraged to join in the trail challenge fun.

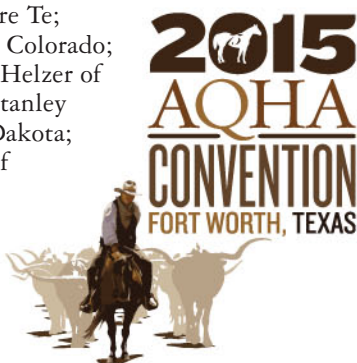
To learn more, go to www.aqha.com/celebration.

HONORING LEGENDS AT CONVENTION

THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE HALL OF FAME INDUCTED the Class of 2015 during the 2015 AQHA Convention in March in Fort Worth, Texas.

The 2015 class includes the 1989 mare Corona Chick; the 1959 stallion Coy's Bonanza; the 1930 stallion Plaudit; the 1979 stallion Smart Little Lena; the 1962 Thoroughbred stallion Azure Te; Thomas Bradbury of Byers, Colorado; AQHA Past President Jim Helzer of Arlington, Texas; the late Stanley Johnston of Miller, South Dakota; and the late Ted Wells Jr. of Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

In addition to the Hall of Fame inductions, Pat Hunt of Cannelton, Indiana, was presented the 2014 Merle Wood Humanitarian Award at the Hall of Fame Banquet.



READY, SET, LEAD!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN THROUGH APRIL 30 FOR THE 2015 Bank of America Youth Excellence Seminar, July 7-9 in Amarillo. YES welcomes American Quarter Horse Youth Association members and nonmembers, ages 10 to 18, to experience a three-day, fun-packed event that offers valuable leadership skills, inspiring speakers and tons of fun.

Hosted by the 2014-15 AQHYA officers and directors, YES will hold a wide variety of activities and speakers focused on the youth of our industry.

Voting delegates representing the affiliates will elect the 2015-16 AQHYA officers and directors during YES. AQHYA's 11 regions will also elect up to three directors to represent their respective regions during the conference.

Registration is \$110 by April 30 for current AQHYA and AQHA members, and \$125 if registered by April 30 for nonmembers of AQHYA and/or AQHA. Late registrations received after April 30: \$25 late fee and subject to availability. All registration fees include meals.

For more information, visit www.aqha.com/yes.

MEET MISS RODEO AMERICA



COURTESY OF MISS RODEO AMERICA

THE NEW LEADING LADY OF PROFESSIONAL RODEO IS Lauren Heaton of Alva, Oklahoma.

Lauren served as Miss Rodeo Oklahoma 2014. She is a 2013 graduate of Oklahoma State University with a dual bachelor's degree in public relations and advertising. She plans to pursue a master's degree in business administration and go on to a career with an advertising and public relations agency.

Lauren's prizes included a wardrobe of Wrangler jeans and shirts, Justin Boots and an official Miss Rodeo America trophy buckle from Montana Silversmiths.

Lauren will travel across the country as Miss Rodeo America 2015.

MERIAL RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH AQHA



AQHA IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE SIX-YEAR partnership with Merial will continue in 2015.

Merial's official AQHA products are GastroGard (omeprazole), UlcerGard (omeprazole) and Equioxx (firocoxib).

The company is the title sponsor of the Merial AQHA Regional Championships. Merial is also proud to sponsor the AQHA World Championship Show, Bank of America Challenge Championships, Adequan Select World Championship Show, AQHYA Horse Judging and AQHA World Show Judging contests, and the Level 1 Championship.

AQHA appreciates the continued support of corporate partners, like Merial, the opportunity to serve AQHA members through special discounts and exclusive services made possible through these partnerships.

For more information about Merial and other AQHA corporate partners, visit www.aqha.com/partners.

BY THE NUMBERS

INCLUDED IN THE AQHA ANNUAL REPORT ARE THE TOP 10 membership states/provinces/countries in 2014:

Texas - 37,946
California - 15,693
Oklahoma - 12,171
Colorado 7,829
Ohio - 7,271
Alberta - 6,808
Germany - 6,459
Florida - 6,432
Missouri - 6,120
Arizona - 5,480

GET THE DIGITAL!

AQHA WANTS TO OFFER ITS MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY to get information faster and more conveniently, and, these days, that means going digital. AQHA members can check out the digital version of *America's Horse*, and there are two handy ways to do it.

The Digital Edition

Designed for desktop and laptop computers, this Web-based version allows you to flip through the entire magazine quickly or download it as a PDF. You can even print off any particular pages you'd like to keep.

- Go to www.aqha.com/americashorse and click "Read the Digital Online."
- Select the issue you want to read, then log in with your membership ID and PIN. If you don't have a personal identification number or have forgotten it, call AQHA Customer Service at 806-376-4811.

The App

Useful for smartphones and tablets (both iOS and Android), the *America's Horse* app truly lets you take your magazine wherever you go.

- Go to the "app store" for your device and search for "*America's Horse*."
- Download the free app.
- Open the app and log in with your membership ID and PIN.
- You'll have access to the last year of magazines and will be notified as current issues come out. You can get more information about the *America's Horse* app at www.aqha.com/americashorse.

Exclusives You Don't Want to Miss in the May Digital:

- Delve farther into the history of a 75-year breeder by checking out this story from our digital archives.
- 🕒 Watch Fallon Taylor and Amberley Snyder celebrate a fundraising success that resulted in Amberley obtaining a great new wheelchair.
- From AQHA's archives, the story of Jim Harkey, who bred Dodger, Old Jim and many more great horses.
- Sage Remarks: A bonus page of quotes and quips about horses, ready to be printed out and hung on your refrigerator.



RE-RIDE

Two Stories Converge



TWO OF OUR FAVORITE COWGIRLS FEATURED IN THE pages of *America's Horse* were again in the spotlight – together, this time – during RFD-TV's The American rodeo.

Just before the rodeo, 2014 world champion barrel racer Fallon Taylor (March-April *America's Horse*) challenged her fans to chip in for a wheelchair that would allow Amberley Snyder (July 2014 *America's Horse*) to better navigate over rough terrain and also to stand up.

Fallon made social media posts that pointed to a *gofundme.com* fundraising page, and her fans raised more than \$30,000 in just a few days – more than enough to buy the rugged wheelchair with tank-like all-terrain treads. Amberley says she'll put the excess funds toward a new vehicle, so she can continue to be independent and mobile.

Check out the digital edition of *America's Horse* to see a video of the Skype call between Fallon and Amberley. You'll love hearing Amberley describe how this new wheelchair will enable her to do some things she has been sorely missing – like cleaning stalls and saddling her own horse.

Amberley was also in the spotlight at the AQHA convention, featured as the guest speaker at the American Quarter Horse Foundation Benefit Luncheon.

Outgoing AQHA President Johnny Trotter and his wife, Jana, bought the No. 1 leather-bound copy of Jim Jennings' new book, "They Still Ride Good Horses," and gave it to Amberley. Jim autographed the book for her, and he also gave her one of his regular-bound books.



Jana Trotter and Amberley Snyder at the AQHA convention.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



AQHA FILE PHOTO

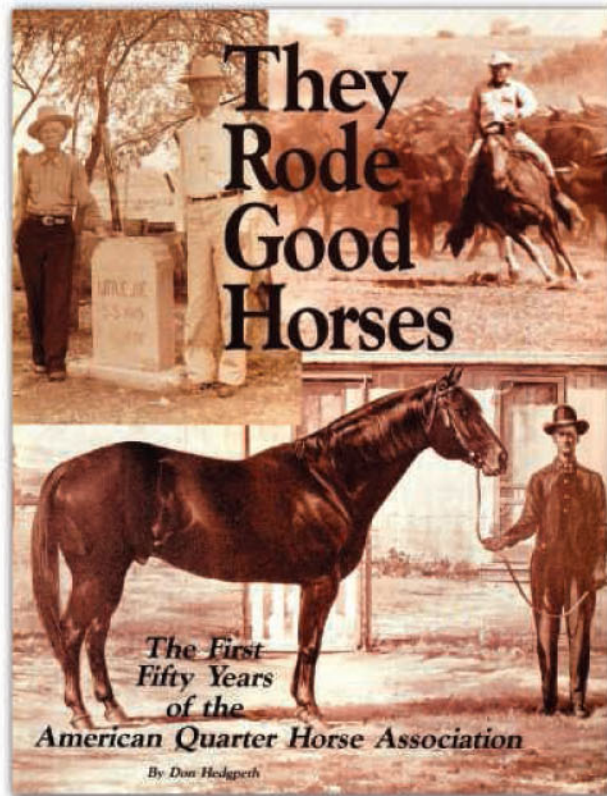
IN 1960, *THE QUARTER HORSE JOURNAL* SAT down with one of the industry's old-timers, the man who bred Dodger (grandsire of Pretty Buck, among other standouts). Jim Harkey delivered a brand of common sense rooted in the previous century, and it's worth a read:

"There is an old saying that 'a cowboy is a man with guts and a hoss.' Jim Harkey spent most of a lifetime cowboying, breaking, breeding and racing horses. A lot of cattle were branded, a lot of broncs busted, a lot of races run in the years following his first ranch job. He now has, as they say in West Texas, a lot of wrinkles on his horns but he's no smooth mouth, having never had to go for store-bought teeth, and his memory is as keen as a cat's whisker. A day with Jim Harkey brings 65 years of history in review as vividly as a television epic."

To read more about Jim and his historic horses, access the digital edition of this magazine. Go to Page 45 for instructions.



The BLOOD FEUD



THROUGHOUT 2015, AS A WAY OF CELEBRATING AQHA'S 75TH Anniversary, *America's Horse* is taking a look back at some of the key events that have unfolded at the Association during those years.

In the March-April issue of *America's Horse*, we reviewed the very first requirements for registration and the controversy that had been boiling from the very beginning between those who favored the stocky "bulldog" horses and those who appreciated a little Thoroughbred influence.

We'll continue looking at the "blood feud" of the 1950s, with material from "They Rode Good Horses: The First Fifty Years of the American Quarter Horse Association":

A letter to *The Quarter Horse Journal* in February 1950 presents a good-natured but pertinent criticism of the situation apparent at many of the Quarter Horse shows at that time.

"... the individual horses convince you that there is a big spread on the minds of exhibitors regarding type. Some of these ranch-type stallions look like a wheel horse on a caisson, with a neck like a Belgian stud, crestfallen and drafty, and stand so base wide that they must surely roll like a rowboat when asked to trot or gallop under a saddle. On the other hand, some racing-type animals are the other extreme, wasp-bellied, canary-boned,

weedy individuals; but the program says they are both Quarter Horses. And the old rancher's wife sitting next to me says, 'So's my Aunt Hattie!'"

The old bulldog men, who had come to be called "cow-boys" by the racehorse proponents, no longer controlled the Association to the extent they once had. But they had not given up and rolled over. A letter published in *The Quarter Horse Journal* of April 1950 said:

"When I receive an inquiry from someone asking if I can furnish a Racing Type Quarter Horse, I am tempted to reply that I have only Bull Dogs at present, but that if they will give me 60 days, I will be glad to starve one down to suit them."

But in the end, the responsibility for proving the case for or against Thoroughbred blood finally fell to the horses themselves. In 1952, the first AQHA Champions were named. What is most striking about these eight great horses is that they represent both the classic Quarter Horse blood, as well as that of the Thoroughbred, and they all could get the job done, in performance as well as conformation. The horse himself had risen above the trivial arguments of men and proved to be his own best advocate.

Keep watching *America's Horse* throughout the year for more AQHA history.

AQHA, CIRCA 1957

AS WE WELCOME ABOARD THE NEW AQHA EXECUTIVE vice president and appreciate some positive financial news (see news items elsewhere in Bits & Spurs), let's see how this situation compares to an earlier spot in the Association's history, when Howard K. Linger had just taken over as AQHA secretary (the equivalent of an executive vice president now).

Here's a letter Howard wrote in the November 1957 *Quarter Horse Journal*:

"It is a pleasure to be associated with the American Quarter Horse Association, and I am looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the many contacts and acquaintances that will be made.

"The American Quarter Horse has become tremendously popular the past few years, and I see no reason why this popularity should not continue to grow. Numerous sales held within the past years have indicated the willingness of

people to buy good horses at good prices, and makes the future of the Quarter Horse appear bright.

"It will be my sincere hope that the American Quarter Horse Association may properly service the industry. The growth of this business has been so sudden and such in proportions that it has overloaded the office at this time; however, I am sure that we will be able to cope with the situation and be able to handle any future increase in business that might develop.

"The office wants to be of service to you and wants you to feel that you are free to call upon us at any time, and we will gladly do our best to furnish the information and assistance requested.

"I will be looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the days ahead – either at the sales or shows.

"Again, I want to state that we are happy to be associated with this Association and the people that comprise it."



AQHA life member Jennifer Porter Delmer of San Antonio and her American Quarter Horse, Coles Night Hawk, recently received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Dressage Foundation. The Carol Lavell Gifted Memorial Fund Scholarships for Adult Amateurs enable riders to set aside quality time in concentrated training with their horse, trainer of choice, and away from the daily pressures of job and family. More information is at www.dressagefoundation.org.

2015 SPORTS ILLUSTRATED SWIMSUIT ISSUE

WHEN THE 2015 *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED* SWIMSUIT issue hit stands earlier this year, it created quite a bit of buzz, from the controversy of Hannah Davis' bikini bottoms on the cover to the introduction of Robyn Lawley as the first ever "plus-size" model to be featured in an editorial spread in *Sports Illustrated's* annual swimsuit issue.

However, the hot topic that made AQHA interested in this year's issue was a different breed of American beauty. This year, the magazine moved from the beach to the farm for the photo shoot, and for the first time ever, an

American Quarter Horse was featured in the highly anticipated *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue.

American Quarter Horse Ready For Logan, a 2001 bay gelding, made his modeling debut in the issue. The gelding, sired by Pets Ready Chex and out of Sandy Cheetah, is owned by Patricia Parker of Melbourne, Kentucky.

Another American Quarter Horse, Skyrocket To Stardum, is featured on *Sports Illustrated's* website and videos. The 2003 bay gelding, sired by Intimidate The Sky and out of Winnie The Star, is owned by Nancy Kruger of Crouse, North Carolina.



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Audacious Alexis

CONQUERING ADVERSITY IS NOT an easy task, even for many adults. But 12-year-old Alexis Mann does it with grace and wisdom far beyond many kids her age. Alexis was born without a right arm below her ellbow, but has turned her disability into determination to excel in horse showing.

This AQHYA member lives with her mother and father, Laura and Robert Mann, in Gladwin, Michigan, where she is active in the Country Trail Riders 4-H Club of Clare County. Her father says that horses have always been a part of Alexis' life.

"I raced harness horses for about 13 years and then got out of it. When we moved up north, we had a place with three miles of trails and two horses. Now we have 5. Alexis was riding at probably 10 months."

Alexis' horse-showing career began when she was a youngster, competing

in pee-wee classes at open shows when she was just 6 years old. Since then, she has advanced to larger open shows and 4-H competitions.

"Alexis does great," Robert says. "We travel to horse shows all over the state."

Alexis' first horse was a Quarter Horse gelding named "Squirt," who she competed on at their local county fair, where they earned grand champion in the walk-trot division in 2014.

"She did very well with him at the fair last year in the lope class," Robert says. "Now, what's happening is her talent is beyond what the horse can give her."

Alexis' new equine partner is a mare named Brooklyns Verse.

"(Brooklyn) is really sweet," Alexis says. "She'll follow you around everywhere."

Alexis says that speed events are her favorite to compete in, but western pleasure is her strongest event. She is learning how to ride English.



COURTESY OF ROBERT MANN

“My favorite thing about horse riding is you can relax, and you don’t have to worry about all the stuff that’s going on around you,” Alexis says. “It’s you and the horse out there. Yes, there may be 10 kids in your class, but it’s you and your horse. You’re connected in some way; you’re together as a team.”

Alexis says learning to ride with only her left hand has been challenging, but when she does well and inspires the judges and other competitors at horse shows, it makes the hard work worthwhile.

“Life could be worse,” Alexis says. “As long as I’m on a horse and competing against others with two hands, it makes me feel great.”

“It’s pretty inspiring,” Robert says. “A lot of kids look up to her for that, even older kids. (Horse showing) has been a really good experience, and we’re really proud of her.”

Neither Robert nor Laura ride, but they happily cheer on their daughter and work behind the scenes to support her in her passion for showing horses.

“She likes barrels, and she flies around there, and we just close our eyes!” Robert says with a laugh. “But how far she goes is up to her, and we don’t push her at all.”

However, it doesn’t seem as though Alexis needs any pushing. When asked about the most important life skill she has learned from horses, she resolutely says “responsibility, because you’re always taking care of an animal and checking the barn and always making sure there’s food and water. Someone’s always there for you, and someone’s always there to love you; someone’s always there to care.”

“Horses are a way of life,” Robert says. “It’s not like having a cat or a dog – you have to live and breathe it.”

Alexis’s talents stretch beyond her equestrian endeavors to include volleyball and an affinity for basketball. She’s also a straight-A student and aspires to attend the University of Findlay to become a horse trainer.

As the old saying goes – when the going gets tough, the tough get going. And Alexis is certainly going places.

BY ANNISE MONTPLAISIR

COURTESY OF ROBERT MANN



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Raising Arizona

IN THE FALL OF 1984, RACEHORSE trainer Denny Halcomb was helping his client Steve Holt select a prospect from the historic B.F. Phillips Ranch yearling sale. They had their eye on a sorrel son of Rocket Wrangler, a Superior racehorse who would later join the hallowed American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame. This yearling was also a maternal grandson of Mr Jet Moore, himself a world champion on the track.

To be sure, Arizona Wrangler showed promise. Denny and Steve just didn't realize how longstanding it would be. Steve purchased the youngster for \$20,500, and he went into training with Denny. They later owned the colt in partnership.

"Arizona" raced from ages 2 to 5, earning seven wins in 29 starts. By the time he was 6, he switched gears to become a team-roping heading horse. After just a couple of months of training, he was winning saddles.

His roping career didn't last long,

however, as by the end of his 6-year-old year, Denny, who had become the horse's sole owner, put him to work as a pony horse. He continued this career until he turned 28.

"To be honest with you, I just fell in love with this horse from the get-go, and I didn't want him to go anywhere else," Denny says of his decision to take full ownership of Arizona. "He's just a special horse."

Now 32, Arizona continues to live in Denny's race barn in Ada, Oklahoma, where he has been since he was a baby.

Denny's own career has spanned nearly 40 years, and he continues to train Quarter Horse and Thoroughbreds for the track. Arizona, who didn't like it when he was turned out for "retirement," still oversees the youngsters in training and enjoys good health.

"We've been through a lot of ups and downs," Denny says of his old gelding. "He's one of my best friends. ... To me, he's like a little piece of history."



DENNA MONTGOMERY

Denny Halcomb with Arizona Wrangler in fall 2014.

Brief Summary of Prescribing Information

DORMOSEDAN GEL

(detomidine hydrochloride)
Alpha₂-agonist oromucosal gel
Rx only

For Sedation and Restraint in Horses Only

CAUTION:

Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

INDICATIONS:

DORMOSEDAN GEL is indicated for sedation and restraint in horses.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:

DORMOSEDAN GEL produces sedation when administered sublingually at 0.018 mg/lb (0.040 mg/kg). DORMOSEDAN GEL must be placed beneath the tongue of the horse and is not meant to be swallowed. The dosing syringe delivers the product in 0.25 mL increments. The following dosing table may be used to determine the correct dose of DORMOSEDAN GEL (Table 1).

Table 1: Sublingual dosing of DORMOSEDAN GEL

Approx. body weight (lb)	Range of doses (mg/lb)	Approx. body weight (kg)	Range of doses (mg/kg)	Dose volume (mL)
330-439	0.023-0.017	150-199	0.051-0.038	1.00
440-549	0.022-0.017	200-249	0.047-0.038	1.25
550-659	0.021-0.017	250-299	0.046-0.038	1.50
660-769	0.020-0.017	300-349	0.044-0.038	1.75
770-879	0.019-0.017	350-399	0.043-0.038	2.00
880-989	0.019-0.017	400-449	0.043-0.038	2.25
990-1099	0.019-0.017	450-499	0.042-0.038	2.50
1100-1209	0.019-0.017	500-549	0.042-0.038	2.75
1210-1320	0.019-0.017	550-600	0.041-0.038	3.00

Use impermeable gloves when handling the product. Remove the syringe from the outer carton. While holding the plunger, turn the ring-stop on the plunger until the ring is able to slide freely up and down the plunger. Position the ring in such a way that the side nearest the barrel is at the desired volume marking. Turn the ring to secure it in place. Make sure that the horse's mouth contains no feed. Remove the cap from the tip of the syringe and save for cap replacement. Insert the syringe tip into the horse's mouth from the side of the mouth, placing the syringe tip beneath the tongue at the level of the commissure of the mouth. Depress the plunger until the ring-stop contacts the barrel, depositing the product beneath the tongue. Take the syringe out of the horse's mouth, recap the syringe and return it to the outer carton for disposal. Remove gloves for disposal.

For the best results, allow adequate time (a minimum of 40 minutes) between administration of DORMOSEDAN GEL and beginning the procedure. In general, horses show sedative effects lasting approximately 90-180 minutes.

Withhold food and water until the sedative effects of the product wear off.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

DORMOSEDAN GEL is contraindicated in horses with known hypersensitivity to detomidine. Intravenous potentiated sulfonamides should not be used in anesthetized or sedated horses as potentially fatal dysrhythmias may occur.

Do not use DORMOSEDAN GEL in horses with pre-existing atrioventricular (AV) or sino-atrial (SA) blocks, respiratory disease, or chronic renal failure.

WARNINGS:

For sublingual use in horses only. Do not use in horses intended for human consumption.

HUMAN WARNINGS: Not for human use. Keep out of the reach of children. Use impermeable gloves during drug administration and during procedures that require contact with the horse's mouth. Following sublingual administration of detomidine oromucosal gel, drug concentrations up to 0.072 mg/mL were measured at 30 minutes post dose in equine saliva, equivalent to less than one percent of the original detomidine concentration in the gel. Mean drug concentrations fall to less than 0.010 mg/mL by 2 hours after drug administration, after which a slow decline occurs for several additional hours.

DORMOSEDAN GEL can be absorbed following direct exposure to skin, eyes, or mouth, and may cause irritation. Skin and mucosal contact with the product should be avoided. Use impermeable gloves at all times.

In case of accidental eye exposure, rinse abundantly with fresh water. In case of accidental skin exposure, wash with soap and water. Remove contaminated clothing.

Appropriate precautions should be taken while handling and using gel syringes. Accidental exposure could cause adverse reactions, including sedation, hypotension, and bradycardia. Seek medical attention immediately but do not drive because sedation or changes in blood pressure may occur.

Individuals with cardiovascular disease (for example, hypertension or ischemic heart disease) should take special precautions to avoid exposure to this product.

Caution should be exercised when handling sedated horses. Handling or any other sudden stimuli, including noise, may cause a defense reaction in an animal that appears to be heavily sedated.

Rare cases of human abuse of detomidine products have been reported. DORMOSEDAN GEL should be managed to prevent the risk of diversion, through such measures as restriction of access and the use of drug accountability procedures appropriate to the clinical setting.

The material safety data sheet (MSDS) contains more detailed occupational safety information. To report adverse reactions in users or to obtain a copy of the MSDS for this product call 1-800-366-5288.

Note to physician: This product contains an alpha₂-adrenoreceptor agonist.

PRECAUTIONS:

DORMOSEDAN GEL must be placed beneath the tongue of the horse. Unlike most oral veterinary products, this product is not meant to be swallowed. Swallowing could result in inefficacy.

DORMOSEDAN GEL does not provide analgesia. Do not use for painful procedures.

Do not use with other sedative drugs because the effects may be additive.

Repeat dosing has not been evaluated.

The use of an alpha₂-agonist reversal agent with DORMOSEDAN GEL has not been evaluated.

Before initiating any procedure, allow sedation to fully develop. Nervous or excited horses with high levels of endogenous catecholamines may exhibit a reduced pharmacological response to alpha₂-adrenoreceptor agonists like detomidine. In agitated horses, the onset of sedative effects could be slowed, or the depth and duration of effects could be diminished or nonexistent. When the product is administered, the animal should be allowed to rest in a quiet place for a minimum of 40 minutes.

Do not use DORMOSEDAN GEL in horses with cardiovascular disease, respiratory disorders, liver or kidney diseases, or in conditions of shock, severe debilitation, or stress due to extreme heat, cold, fatigue, or high altitude. Protect treated horses from temperature extremes.

As with all alpha₂-adrenoreceptor agonists, the potential for isolated cases of hypersensitivity, including paradoxical response (excitation), exists.

DORMOSEDAN GEL has not been evaluated in ponies, miniature horses, or horses younger than one year of age.

DORMOSEDAN GEL has not been evaluated for use in breeding, pregnant, or lactating horses.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Clinical field study:

In a US field study of 270 horses sedated to facilitate completion of various veterinary and husbandry procedures, the following adverse reactions were reported in 202 horses treated with DORMOSEDAN GEL and 68 horses treated with placebo:

Table 2: Adverse reactions (number of horses) during the clinical field study

Clinical Sign	DORMOSEDAN GEL N = 202	Placebo N = 68
Sweating	20	0
Penile relaxation	12	0
Bradycardia (< 20 bpm)	11	0
Second degree AV block	9	0
Frequent urination	9	0
Piloerection	4	0
Marked ataxia	3	0
Facial/oral edema	3	0
Hypersalivation	2	0
Nasal discharge	2	0
Flatulence	1	0
Muscle tremors	1	1
Epiphora	1	0
Pale mucous membranes	1	0
Swollen sheath	1	0

In a laboratory study, transient erythema of the mucous membranes was seen in 2 (of 8) horses that received the recommended dose of detomidine gel.

Mild ataxia (horse stable but swaying slightly) was observed in 54% of DORMOSEDAN GEL-treated horses and in 4% of the placebo-treated horses at 40 minutes post treatment administration. Moderate ataxia was observed in 25% of DORMOSEDAN GEL-treated horses (9% placebo) at 40 minutes post treatment. Moderate to marked ataxia continued to 90 minutes for 5% and to 120 minutes for 4% of DORMOSEDAN GEL-treated horses.

STORAGE INFORMATION:

Store at controlled room temperature 20-25°C (68-77°F), with excursions permitted to 15-30°C (59-86°F), in the original package.

HOW SUPPLIED:

3.0 mL graduated oral dosing syringe, 7.6 mg/mL detomidine hydrochloride.

DORMOSEDAN is a trademark of Orion Corporation.

Mfd by:



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Turku, Finland

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Mark Your Calendar!

MAY

3

AQHA trail ride
Smith, Nevada

15-17

AQHA trail ride and Trail Challenge
Skull Valley, Arizona

30-31

AQHA Trail Challenge
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

JUNE

5-7

Merial AQHA Region Nine Championships
Jackson, Mississippi

12-14

AQHA trail ride and Trail Challenge
East Sparta, Ohio

12-14

AQHA trail ride and Trail Challenge
Charles City, Virginia

18-21

Merial AQHA Region Eight Championships
Amarillo

19-21

AQHA trail ride and Trail Challenge
Skull Valley, Arizona

19-22

AQHA trail ride
British Columbia

24

Merial AQHA Region Five Championships
Logan Township, New Jersey

27

AQHA Trail Challenge
Silver Springs, Nevada

28

AQHA Trail Challenge
Hancock, Maine

30 - July 4

AQHA 75th anniversary trail ride and Trail Challenge
Eminence, Missouri
www.aqha.com/celebration

JULY

7-9

Bank of America Youth Excellence Seminar
Amarillo
www.aqha.com/yes

11

AQHA Trail Challenge
Silver Springs, Nevada

For more information on trail rides and Trail Challenges, go to www.aqha.com/riding. Refer to The American Quarter Horse Journal for a listing every month of AQHA shows, all-Novice shows, alliance events (such as those offered by the National Cutting Horse or the National Reining Horse associations), ranch horse events, AQHA-approved dressage shows and special events. Go to www.aqha.com/journal to subscribe.



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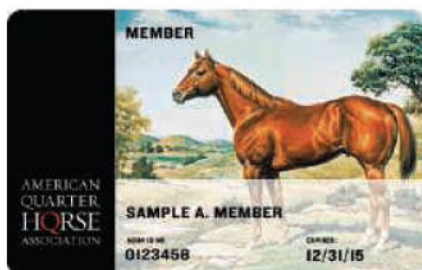
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“I find mucking stalls strangely similar to raking a Zen garden.”

Eventer Lynn Symansky in the United States Equestrian Federation's *Equestrian* magazine

**“He's of the colour of the nutmeg.
And of the heat of the ginger ... he
is pure air and fire; and the dull
elements of earth and water never
appear in him, but only in patient
stillness while his rider mounts
him; he is indeed a horse, and all
other jades you may call beasts.”**

William Shakespeare in “Henry V”

“Brent (Woroniecki) admits he could use an ATV to check cattle – it would certainly be faster than a horse. But a horse can maneuver properly through the crevices and creeks that cut through the buttes. He can also hear cattle mooing in the distance, where the noise of a four-wheeler may drown out the sounds of calves.

“ ‘Once we start calving, I'll get on a horse,’ Brent said. ‘I'll make a circuit all the way around. It's about a 24-mile ride.’ ”

From *The Dickinson Press*. The Woroniecki family was named ranchers of the year by the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

“ ... we must never forget, every time we sit on a horse, what an extraordinary privilege it is to be able to unite one's body with that of another sentient being, one that is stronger, faster and more agile by far than we are and, at the same time, brave, generous and uncommonly forgiving.”

William Steinkraus, Olympic gold medalist in jumping

“It was late May when the boys took a break from the rodeo circuit. Each morning, they climbed onto horses and descended into the canyon, looking for flashes of movement and listening for grunts and murmurs of cattle hidden in the prickly thicket among the cliffs and boulders. For hours, they nudged small herds north into a box canyon with no obvious exit.

“The boys, alone or in pairs, emerged from the abyss at dusk, trailing cows and calves that trekked single file up a steep trail, as sure-footed as mountain goats, diagonally toward the canyon rim.”

From a *New York Times* story on the successful rodeo Wright brothers of Milford, Utah, who are using much of their saddle-bronc earnings to support their family's ranch.

**“Five years ago, Paul Barulich was a lawyer in the Bay Area
of California who suddenly decided to take up riding.**

**“ ‘I turned 52 and it was now or never,’ Barulich said. ‘When I
go in, I go all the way in.’ ”**

From *The Houston Chronicle*, which featured the AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse competition at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo in March. Paul placed fourth in the amateur division.

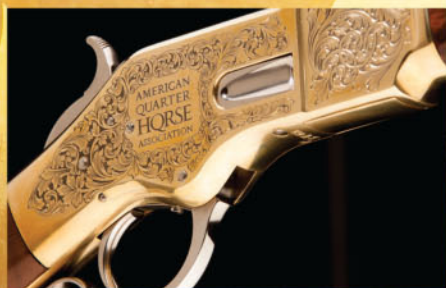
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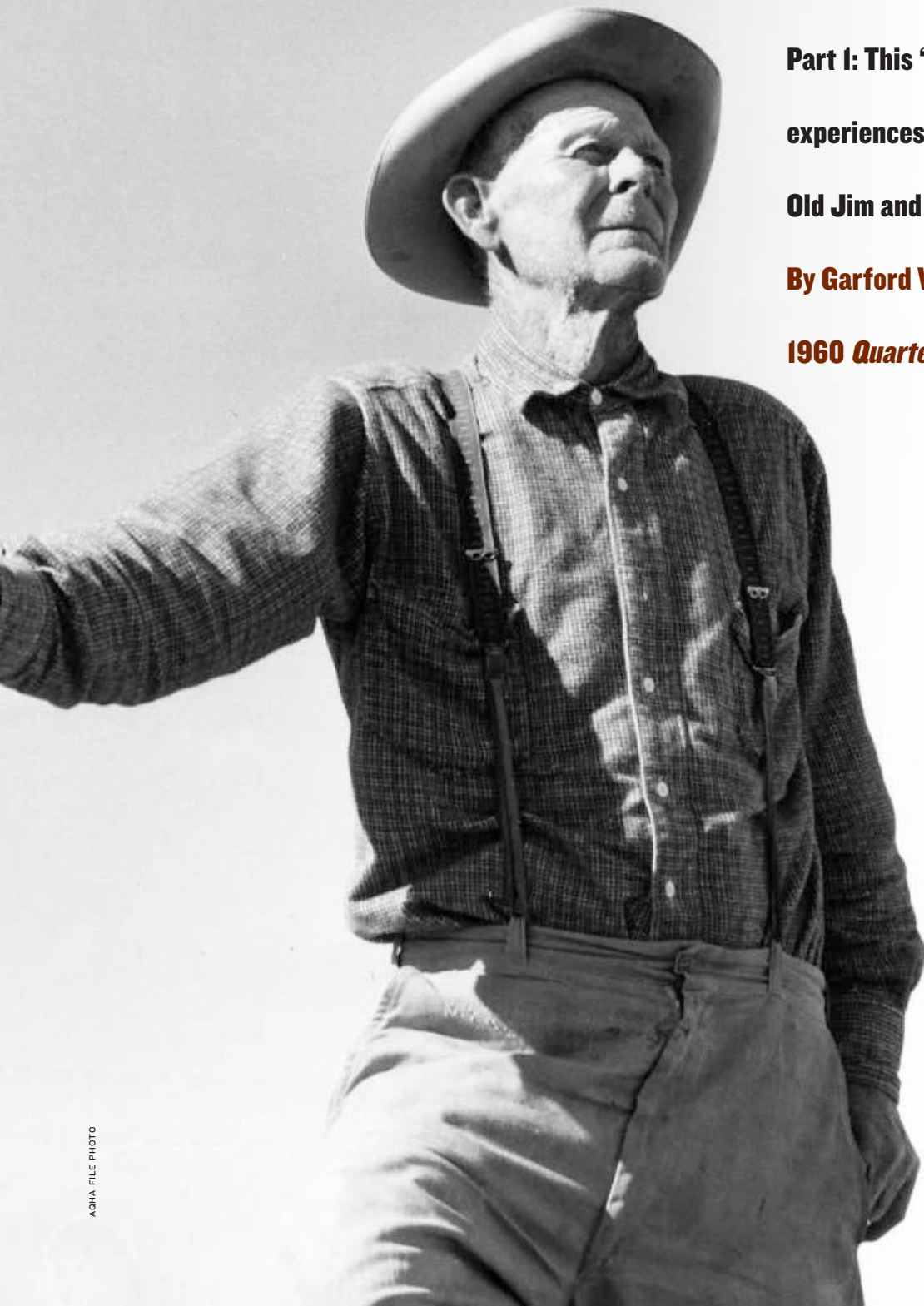


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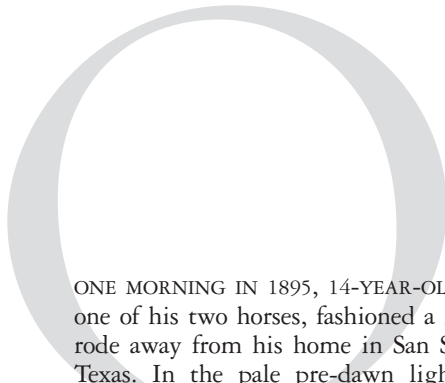
From the **Archives**



Part I: This “old-timer” talks about his experiences as the breeder of Dodger, Old Jim and many more great horses.

By Garford Wilkinson in the March 1960 *Quarter Horse Journal*

After going out on his own as a 14-year-old, Jim Harkey carved out a life as a cowboy and an esteemed breeder.



Editor's Note: Few real old-timers are alive today (in 1960), and their numbers steadily decrease. This is the story of a cowboy born in 1881 who spent his life in the saddle, many of his years as a bronc buster. His great ambition was to breed and own the fastest horses in the state. He liked the Thoroughbreds – he loved the Quarter Horses. Hundreds of outstanding Quarter Horses trace to Dodger and Old Jim, both bred by Jim Harkey. Pretty Buck is a grandson of Dodger.

ONE MORNING IN 1895, 14-YEAR-OLD JIM HARKEY SADDLED UP one of his two horses, fashioned a lead rope on the other and rode away from his home in San Saba County in deep West Texas. In the pale pre-dawn light, he turned toward San Angelo, a hundred miles away. The slightly built, blue-eyed, tousled-haired youngster had resolved to break the bonds holding him to the stern discipline of his frontier lawman father.

Whatever pangs of conscience that may have slowed his ride westward were woven into the thoughts of his mother, four brothers and one sister. Still, he reasoned with grim determination, it was time to go.

That night, he stopped at the George Venible Ranch on the main Concho River below San Angelo. It was branding time, and the youth, already toughened to the rope and saddle and sweat of the roundup, stayed on for two weeks.

With the Venible Ranch roundup nearing its end, Jim Harkey quit his first job – he was never fired in his life – and continued on toward San Angelo, near old Fort Concho.

Riding into the John R. Nasworthy Wagon Yard, the youthful maverick inquired about work. Told that Barry Ketchum was in town, Jim lit shucks for the Old Corner Saloon, famed hangout for ranchers in those parts. Barry was there, all right, but grossly involved in a poker game. Even for one so young, Jim knew it was an inopportune time to approach the noted cowman and horse breeder, whose spread extended over most of six counties. The kid didn't aim to blow a stirrup by horning in on such an important social function.

When morning came, Jim learned that Mr. Ketchum was also a guest at the wagon yard. Biding his time, the youngster soon came into the presence of Mr. Ketchum, who formerly lived near the Harkey family back in San Saba County. Asked if he could ride half-broke horses, Jim replied that he could. Mr. Ketchum hired him on the spot.

Today (in 1960), Jim Harkey, who lives modestly in a small frame house at the edge of Monahans, Texas, with his wife and one son, looks back over 65 years of horse-breeding experience – years in which he produced such notable sires as Dodger and Old Jim; neighbored with William “Billy” Anson, the dean of Quarter Horsemen; and at one time or another, owned several of the fastest horses for their distance that ever lived.

Dodger, reportedly never beaten at 250 yards or under, is best remembered for his get. His blood now ranges into most

states in the union. A light chestnut sorrel, Dodger was by Harmon Baker and out of Froggie. At the time of the mating, Harmon Baker, sired by Peter McCue and whose grandsire was Dan Tucker by Barney Owens, was owned by Billy Anson. Froggie was raised by Jim Harkey. She was by Baby and out of Dolly. Baby was sired by Alex, a horse raised by Barry Ketchum, and Dolly was sired by Clay McGonigal by the original Joe Collins.

Dodger was sired in 1925. Jim Harkey, always searching for the mating that would produce the fastest foals possible for short races, figured that Harmon Baker, the famous Anson sprinter, had the sire-line quality he most desired. Harmon Baker and Froggie produced the sort of animal that most Quarter Horsemen dream of. It is said that in the eight years Dodger was raced in the Trans-Pecos and El Paso country, he only lost three times at the quarter-mile distance. Reportedly a sensational breaking horse off the score line, he could carry extra weight and still dirty the noses of his competitors. At the close of Dodger's racing career, Jim Harkey sold the 12-year-old to Millard Smith, a nephew of Barry Ketchum, who used him as a very productive sire until he died as a 17-year-old.

Dodger, a potent sire, left his imprint upon scores of excellent sons and daughters. One of his greatest daughters was Nettie Hill, a combination racing-halter show mare. Carrying excellent Quarter Horse conformation, Nettie was a superior short horse racer.

Among the fastest and most handsome sons of Dodger was Tommy. Other notable descendants include Pretty Boy and Short Stuff Foster. Many of Dodger's sons were gelded for roping. These included Shuffles and Little Damit. Considered by some as the very best of Dodger's sons for cow work was Shorty, a Smith Ranch gelding out of an Old Jim mare. Numerous horsemen think he would have been a top race horse had he not been retained for ranch work. It is said that Winston Smith, a son of Millard, pulled one of the hardest cowboy feats with Shorty when he roped, tied and doctored a black-tailed doe for screw worms.

Another great foundation Quarter Horse sire bred by Mr. Harkey was Old Jim P-10. Foaled in 1922 on the ranch of Jim Harkey's brother Sam of Sheffield, Texas, Old Jim eventually was sold to Millard Smith, who had previously purchased Dodger.



AQHA FILE PHOTO

Reflecting on a life with horses, Jim Harkey talks about two of his favorite stallions, Dodger and Old Jim.

Old Jim, because of the era and location in which he lived, never had an opportunity to realize his potential as a short race horse without peer. He did, however, make a lasting reputation as a roping horse and as a sire of roping and racing horses and polo ponies.

Old Jim was sired by Little Texas Chief, originally owned by the late George Clegg of Alice, Texas, out of Little Sister. Little Texas Chief was by Texas Chief by Lock's Rondo. Little Sister was by Jim Ned, out of Old Bonnie. It is interesting to note that Old Bonnie was one of the two Thoroughbred mares Jim Harkey owned when he ran away from home in 1895. Little Sister lived 20 years and gave Mr. Harkey 14 fillies and one colt, Old Jim.

For as long as he lived, leading Quarter Horsemen in the west took their finest mares to Old Jim, and a great many of today's leading Quarter Horses throughout the country carry the excellent blood that goes back to Traveler and Pancho by Old Billy, out of Paisana, Oldrough and the Anson Mare.

Foster Conger leased Old Jim from Mr. Smith in 1930 and bought him outright in 1932. He remained in the Conger ownership 11 years and served some of the best mares in the Lone Star State, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Mr. Conger sold the great old sire to Clyde Reynolds in 1941. Mr. Conger repurchased Old Jim in 1943.

Many of Old Jim's get were trained and used for polo, some going to Australia, where the sport was so popular. Numerous others were members of top teams in the United States.

One hundred and one get of Old Jim are registered with AQHA, a lasting tribute to this fine stallion.

But back to the beginning, young Jim Harkey cowboied six months in 1895 for Barry Ketchum at the headquarters on Birch Creek, southwest of San Angelo. Then he became an "outside man" for Mr. Ketchum and was allowed to peel broncs for other ranchers while still drawing \$15 every month from his home base. In those days, bronc snappers received a dollar per head on the age of the horse; a 5-year-old horse would net the buster \$5. This additional income was needed, for Jim had assumed the care of his mother and two younger brothers, who then lived at Christoval on the South Concho.

Jim was a steady hand. He drew wages from Mr. Ketchum 20 straight years and one year after the noted rancher passed away in 1914. Those were busy years. He proved up on a claim in Pecos County in 1912. By that time, he had acquired 17 good fillies, having sold his geldings as fast as they came along to help provide for himself and his dependents.

Within those 20 years, Jim Harkey also became foreman for the 165-section Ketchum spread, extending from above Dove Creek in Tom Green County to the Pecos River. Those were the years, too, when it was said, "When a bad man dies, he either goes to hell or to the Pecos."

Among Jim's closest friends and working companions in the Ketchum outfit were three Summrell brothers whose parents had passed away and who were, like himself, responsible for keeping the remaining members of the family together. It seemed only natural that Jim should meet, court and eventually marry the Summrell girl who was living with her brothers at Sheffield. Born to this union of Jim and Maud were five boys, Leigh, Kennie, Claude, Delmon, James, all of Monahans, and a daughter, Mrs. C. E. McIntyre of Fort Stockton, Texas.

Later, on his own ranch at Sheffield, Jim continued breeding horses and also got a bunch of cattle, goats and sheep. It was the horses that captured the most attention and care and hope. He was a cautious breeder.

"I'd let my mares go dry before I'd breed them to a sorry stud," he recalls. "If a man let an unworthy stud in my pasture, I'd kill it and buy the owner a better one."

Barry Ketchum liked horses that could race, but they also had to be good for ranch work – getting the cowhands there and back. At one time, the ranch had a remuda of more than 3,000 horses. Jim Harkey now recalls that "they ranged over the whole world out there." When horse racing was outlawed in Texas at the turn of the century, Mr. Ketchum sold off his running stock.

Thoroughbreds were slow in winning adherents among cowmen and horse wranglers in West Texas. The brunt of many jokes, they were known as “little dog heads.” Such remarks caused young Jim to think his original mares were valueless. In later years, he willingly owned up to knowing “what makes a horse good.”

Mr. Harkey’s wrinkle-encased eyes sparkle with the memory of Little Texas Chief, bred by George Clegg, who gave the yearling to Mrs. Mont Nolke of Mertzen, 30 miles southwest of San Angelo.

“Mont Nolke sent the yearling on to Will Nolke’s place over at Sheffield. He was just a doggie colt, about as big as a dog,” Mr. Harkey recalled. “When Will peeled his eyes at him, he told me to take him, that he didn’t want him on the place, even if his grandsire was Traveler. Well,” Mr. Harkey continued, “I took him home, grew him out, bred him to nine mares, got nine colts, including Old Jim.”

Billy Anson and Jim Harkey often used the same stallions,

loaning them to one another, breeding them to their own mares. Strange as it may seem, Mr. Harkey’s mares generally got the best foals, he recalled. “I never had a better friend than Bill Anson,” Mr. Harkey said. “He was a good man; we learned a lot from one another.”

There is an old saying that “a cowboy is a man with guts and a hoss.” Jim Harkey spent most of a lifetime cowboying, breaking, breeding and racing horses. A lot of cattle were branded, a lot of broncs busted, a lot of races run in the years following his first ranch job. He now has, as they say in West Texas, a lot of wrinkles on his horns; but he’s no smooth mouth, having never had to go for store-bought teeth, and his memory is as keen as a cat’s whisker. A day with Jim Harkey brings 65 years of history in review as vividly as a television epic. 📺

Check back in the June digital edition of America’s Horse to get Part 2 of the story of Jim Harkey.

AGHA FILE PHOTO



To read more about Dodger, log into the digital *America’s Horse* archives, www.aqha.com/americanhorsearchives. Dodger’s story appears toward the back of the May 2014 *America’s Horse*.

“A horse is worth more than riches.”

Spanish proverb

“You hear of the city feller who wanted to board his horse and he asked his friends what he ought to pay and they said, ‘The price ranges from \$1 a month to 50 cents to 2 bits, but whatever you pay, you’re entitled to the manure.’

“So this city feller goes to the first farmer and the farmer says, ‘One dollar,’ and the city feller said, ‘But I get the manure?’ The farmer nods, and at the next place, it’s 50 cents, and the city feller says, ‘But I get the manure?’ and the farmer nods.

“At the third farm, 2 bits and the same story, so the city feller says, ‘Maybe I can find a place that’s real cheap,’ and he goes to a broken-down farm and the man says, ‘Ten cents a month,’ and the city feller says, ‘But I get the manure?’ and the farmer says, ‘Son, at 10 cents a month, there ain’t gonna be any manure.’ ”

James Michener in “Centennial”

“The Quarter Horse is the undisputed king of these (rodeo) events. He is agile, quick and intelligent. Others are capable of doing it, but not at the same level. The proof is in the performance. When it comes to the best horses in the world, the Quarter Horse continues to be the prime athlete for playdays, rodeos, etc., and the undisputed winner!”

Barrel racer Marlene Eddleman McRae

“Gypsy gold does not chink and glitter. It gleams in the sun and neighs in the dark.”

Gypsy saying

“To be loved by a horse, or by any animal, should fill us with awe, for we have not deserved it.”

Marion Garretty

*“The old mare watched the tractor work,
a thing of rubber and steel,
ready to follow the slightest wish
of the man who held the wheel.
She said to herself as it passed by,
‘You gave me an awful jolt,
but there’s still one thing you cannot do,
you cannot raise a colt.’ ”*

Unknown

“A canter is a cure for every evil.”

Benjamin Disraeli

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