



What's New at the Stables?

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ Our first Induction Ceremony will be held in 2016 for inductees into the International Saddlebred Hall of Fame. Six additional stalls are currently under renovation and will be completed soon. Preliminary plans are being made to restore the cinder track on the east side of the stable. We are setting up a GO FUND ME site as well as an Instagram account, so please share your snapshots and vintage memories with us!
- ◆ Columbia Sign Company restored the Simmon's Stables letters around the fanlight, and we thank them for their care and attention to detail. We are consulting with an architect about renovating Art Simmon's former office to have a climate controlled space to store and showcase donated memorabilia, and also making preliminary plans for modern bathrooms inside the stables.
- ◆ Simmons' Stables Preservation is proudly sponsoring the Missouri/Kansas Tom Bass Memorial Five-Gaited Championship Class for 2015. The American Royal Saddle Horse Show is the oldest continuous Saddlebred show in the world. The show began in 1894 through the collaboration of an unlikely pair: Tom Bass, the legendary African-American horse trainer, and Arthur Stilwell, a civic leader in Independence, MO. Each year the American Royal recognizes the great Missouri trainer Tom Bass. Good luck to all riders and horses in this class event.

HEY, LOOK UP!

Historically accurate stable letters are back in place.

Thank you Columbia Sign Co.



Simmons' Stables Preservation ball caps

Available soon at Jim Stubblefield
Furniture and all SSPS events

\$20

Available in Khaki or Denim



**SIMMONS' STABLES
PRESERVATION
MEXICO, MO**



Adopt a Stall Campaign

We are continuing to campaign for stall adoptions. Have someone special you would like to memorialize with a stall dedication? Contact Bobette at: 573-473-5930

Our Esteemed
Auctioneer
today is
Richard Henke

Visit our website /www.saddlebredhalloffame.org/

Friend us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/pages/Simmons-Stable-Preservation/

Thank you for joining us today at the Barn.

International Saddlebred Hall of Fame
& Simmons' Stable Preservation Society
warmly welcome you to our

13th ANNUAL AUCTION & BARN-B-Q



Sunday, September 20, 2015

Barbeque Pork Steak, Sides and Homemade Pies

Lunch served at 12:30 with Auction to follow

All proceeds benefit International Saddlebred Hall of Fame
to save the Big Barn on the Boulevard. Auction proceeds from today will go
toward preserving & rebuilding the barn.



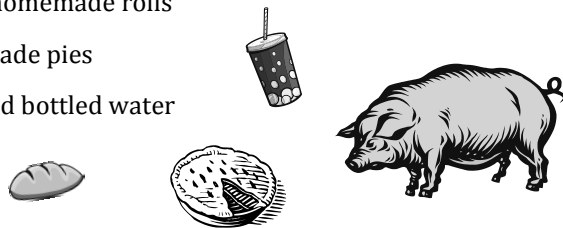
The Menu

BBQ Featured: Pork steaks grilled by Steinman's Banquet Hall

Sides: Baked beans, slaw & homemade rolls

Desserts: Variety of homemade pies

Beverages: Various soda and bottled water



Proposed Officers & Board Members

- ◆ **Co-Presidents**.....Bobette Balser Wilson & Mary White Littrell
- ◆ **Vice-President**.....Ann Stubblefield
- ◆ **Secretary**.....Valerie Schofield
- ◆ **Treasurer**.....Joan Volkmer
- ◆ **Proposed Board Members:** (3yr terms)...Ann Stubblefield, Valerie Schofield, Bobette Balser-Wilson.
- ◆ **Returning Board Members:** L. Morgan (1yr), Gene Potter (1yr), Martin Jones (1yr). Delores Groves (2yr), Joan Volkmer (2yr), Mary White-Littrell (2ys).
- ◆ **Graphic Artists:**Martin Jones & Laura Mackey

A stable update and short business meeting will be held during the meal, special guests will be honored, then our live auction will begin.



2015 Community Support

TOURS

Missouri Young Farmers Tour visited us in August and the Cole County 4-H Group also toured our barn. We were delighted so many young people came to visit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Barn Tours during Walk Back in Time - September 26, 2015, barn will be open for historical tours at 11am and 3:30pm on that Saturday. Eugene Field School Student Council will be doing a litter-pick-up Monday, Sept 21st. Thank you student council members.

DONATIONS

Thank you to all who donated to our auction!



2015 Honorees

ALICE NEIHARDT THOMPSON

Alice Neihardt Thompson spent her early years in the Ozark Hills in Branson. She was born the daughter of Dr. John Neihardt, author, poet, and professor at the University of Missouri. Her mother was Mona Martinsen, a sculptress and accomplished musician. From a very early age of pretending to be a horse with her sister while eating candy corn underneath the piano to riding horses in the Ozark Hills, Alice always dreamed of being a horse trainer. When she grew up she traveled with a ballet troupe in the United States and Mexico. After that she enlisted in the Navy and served at Cape Canaveral Naval Base as a Link Trainer Operator teaching pilots to fly by instrument. After WWII ended, she and her husband moved to Skyrim Farm, north of Columbia where she still lives today. Alice attended the University of

Missouri in Columbia and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, majoring in animal husbandry. Alice's dream of being a horse trainer was not forgotten and she began taking riding lessons from world-famous Caroline Drew at Christian College Stables. Later, Alice became an assistant riding instructor to Drew at Christian College until she began her own riding program at Senator George Spencer's farm near Columbia. During this time, she partnered with Dick Cook and began breeding, raising, and training American Saddlebred Horses along with teaching riding lessons. Her 40-year partnership with Dick Cook produced the great stallion Skyrim's Bourbon Stonewall. Alice taught many to ride horses.....children, their children, and then grandchildren of her first students. Her hope was that her students would become complete horsemen, both body and spirit. In honor of her accomplishments, Alice received the 2012-2013 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Missouri Horse Show Association.

Sources: missourihorshowassociation.org/news/lifetime-achievement; *The Great Adventure* by Alice Neihardt Thompson



WESLEY "NIP" KNIPFEL

Wesley Knipfel, more commonly known as "Nip", grew up in Mexico close to the fairgrounds in a neighborhood called "Little Oklahoma" as one of 11 children. As he walked to elementary school at Eugene Field and later Hardin Jr. High, he watched through the fence, just as many people have done, the magnificent saddlebreds being trained at the Big Ol' Barn on the Boulevard, never dreaming that one day he would be shoeing those champion horses. As a young boy he began working horses as a groom, just as many young boys did during that era, at the Audrain Co. Fairgrounds to earn a little extra money. Wesley's dream was to ride racehorses, but his mom would not let him leave home. Jimmy Simmons recalls Wesley riding a mule in one race at the Audrain Co Fair then later on in the same day riding a thoroughbred horse. Wesley worked for the world famous trainer John Hook and his son Leonard when their barn was located where Dr. Simmons' urgent care clinic is now. He also worked for Bill Cunningham to help train his horses stabled at the fairgrounds. While working for Cunningham, Nip broke and gaited a horse named Indiana Peavine who was later sold to a Senator in Pennsylvania and won the 3-year old 5-gaited World's Championship Stake at Louisville, KY in 1958 with Jimmy Little riding. He worked for \$35 per week for Cunningham, but got an offer in Iowa to work for \$100 a week, so he moved to Iowa in 1957.

After a period of time working for someone else, he decided to open his own stables in Des Moines. After a few years not making any money, he went back to working for someone else. In 1977 he began his career shoeing hackney ponies and saddlebred horses in Monmouth, Iowa. His reputation soon spread and he was soon shoeing horses not only in Iowa, but Wisconsin and Missouri. For those of us who know little about shoeing saddlebred horses, there is an art to it and proper shoeing could be the difference between winning and losing a horse show. In 1979 he got the call from Art Simmons to move to Missouri and work in Art's blacksmith shop which is located north of the big barn. While working for Art Simmons, Nip shod numerous champion horses, not only for Art, but for Callaway Hills and many of the great horsemen in the area such as Virgil Helm, Sonny Sutton, Marion Brown to name just a few. As of 2009, Nip had been shoeing horses 30 years for the Simmons' family and helped them bring many championship trophies home to Mexico. Since that time, Nip has retired.

Sources: *Saddle & Bridle, December 2009*; "Wesley Junior "Nip" Knipfel: Midwest Saddlebred Trainer and Farrier" by Jane E. B. Simmons, p. 50-54



We honor all who have blazed the trail ahead of us

