

SIMMONS' STABLE PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER



2023
SPRING
EDITION

HALL OF FAME CEREMONY 2022

2022 HOF INDUCTEES:

~ Martin Cockriel
~ Anna Marie Knipp
~ Nelson Green



POSTHUMOUS INDUCTEES:

~ Utz Brothers
~ Wallen Family
~ Roberts Family



The 6th annual International Saddlebred Hall of Fame Ceremony was held at the historic Simmons' Stable on the evening of June 11 of 2022. This year's class of inductees consisted of Anna Marie Knipp of Ashland, MO; Martin Cockriel of Parker, Colorado; and Nelson Green of Nicholasville, Kentucky. Posthumous honorees were Howard Roberts Family of Clinton, MO; Darrel Wallen Family of Decatur, Indiana; Dick Wallen Family of Sioux City, Iowa; and the Utz Brothers (Jay Utz of Windsor, MO, Don Utz of Lexington, MO, and Wilbur "Sug" Utz of Raytown, MO). Todd Geeson, President of Mexico Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Chris Miller welcomed the guests with Paulette Schroeder of Edmond, OK serving as Master of Ceremonies. Attendees traveled from various parts of Missouri along with the states of Mississippi, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Kansas, Florida, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Louisiana. Prior to the ceremony,

guests attended a social hour with cocktails and were treated with the delightful background music of harpist, Melissa Purvis. A catered meal of prime rib and Monterey Chicken was served by Bucky's Sit or Get. Following dinner, all inductees were honored with a custom made plaque and their names were added to an existing plaque made from the original red boards of the stable and the John Hook barn. Donations to help with expenses of the event were received from Janet Thompson, Lenoir Seelhorst, and Roslyn Roberts Bradord. Promotional funding was also provided by the Mexico Tourism Tax. Special thanks to the donors for their generosity and congratulations to the inductees who have devoted their lives to the saddlebred industry. The photographer for the event was David Pickering and photos can be viewed and ordered at :www.davidpickering.biz



BARN B-QUE/AUCTION

On Sunday, Sept 18th, the 20th Annual Barn B-Que & Auction was held at Simmons' Stable on the Boulevard. There was a good turnout of around 100 people and the barbeque pork steaks, baked beans, coleslaw and homemade rolls, pies & brownies were a huge hit. A silent auction was open to bids as attendees perused multiple tables of antiques, collectibles and donated goodies. After the BBQ luncheon, our Co-Presidents (Bobette Balser Wilson & Mary White Littrell) took the mic to introduce the 2022 Stable Preservation honorees. The honorees receiving engraved pavers were; The Simmons' Family (Jim, Jane, Jennifer, Scott and family), Donna Slaughter, Dave & Mary Jo Maupin, and Dr. Ray Wilbers and his (posthumous) saddlebred gelding; Red Oaks Citation. Soon after, the Live auction began with auctioneers Tom Usnick & JR Johnston. Bidding was kept at a fast pace as they entertained the crowd. We would like to thank the many local businesses who donated items to our annual auction. Without them, our fundraiser would be very slim. Thank you to those who baked & cooked incredible food, and the many volunteers that show up and help us with this event. We are so grateful to the attendees who come to enjoy the day with us. It was a fun Sunday!

CHRISTMAS AT THE STABLE 2022



Whether you are old or young, the stable holds magic for those who believe. The stable was decorated both inside and out to reflect the Christmas spirit with greenery, bells, bows, and a giant cedar tree filled with various decorations. Guests were treated to hot chocolate and cookies and entertained with holiday music by Scott Weber, The Presser Pipes and St. Luke's Mass Choir. Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted the children in a stall beautifully decorated by Blossoms & Blooms Florist. The children were given favors of crayons and a custom-made coloring book along with a photo taken by David Pickering with Santa and Mrs. Claus. This year set records for the sleigh rides. Nearly 500 people waited in line for the horse drawn sleigh rides. Belgian draft horses from Cedar Hollow Farms in Clark, MO and driven by Ray Smith pulled the giant sleigh loaned to us by Dr. Raymond Wilbers. The event is made possible by our

Blue Ribbon Sponsors: Sydenstricker Nobbe, Simmons' Family, Warren & Bobette Wilson, Rodger's Rental;

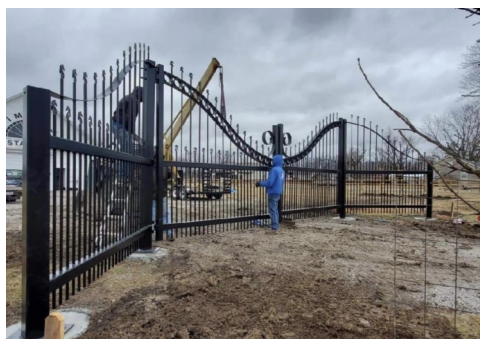
Red Ribbon Sponsors: Mexico Heating, Jim Stubblefield Furniture, Dale & Patti Cone, Mexico Altrusa Club, Cookie Club, Tiger Floor Covering of Columbia; and our **Yellow Ribbon Sponsor:** Gallaher Insurance. We are grateful to our sponsors and also our crew of volunteers: Janet Welch, Cathy Foreman, Julie Key, Loren Littrell Finck, Jim & Ann Stubblefield, Warren Wilson, Tom Usnick, Lance Leighton, Stephen & Harry Hudson, DeAnna Amos, Tim & Laura Mackey, and Heather Little. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a special Christmas memory. Thank you to all who attended, the sleigh ride lines were long but hopefully worth it. Mark your calendars this December to visit the holiday magic this year at the Stable.



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The New Iron Gate: Thursday, January 18th of 2023, our new gates were installed. We started the drawing plans two years ago for the custom stable gates. All that stood there before were two leaning cattle panels. Inspiration for the new gate, came from a neighbor of the Wilson's. Many talented people pitched in to make this gate happen. Credit goes to Dakota Moore of Turner Welding, Tyler Beamer and Warren Wilson for their many hours of hard work. The gates were installed by Dakota Moore, Cody Kuda (Kuda Construction), Andy Smith and Warren Wilson. Concrete work was done by Cody Kuda. The gates were sandblasted in Fulton, MO by Joe Hosenfelt and powder coated by Show Me Powder Coating. Warren Wilson drew the plans for the new gate. Caleb Moore & Sam Hunt from Thompson Plasma made the horse head decorations for top of the gates. The new gate has been a monumental undertaking, but is now proudly on full display at the south entrance to Simmons' Stables located at 701 West Boulevard in Mexico, Missouri.



New Fencing: On July 11th of 2022, Jordan Bruce and his crew: (Grayson Bruce, Jackson Bruce, Michael Marcellus, and Travis Brooks) dismantled the old painted oak fence across the front of the stable property on Boulevard Street, then continued down the east side of the property on Webster St. The Bruce crew began reconstructing the new fence on July 14th, 2022. The second week of December, the crew dismantled the fence on the west side of the property on Grove Street and rebuilt the new fence. Next they will finish building the fence leading up to the new entrance gates on Boulevard Street. The last step of the fence reconstruction will be tearing out and replacing the fence across the back of the property, as well as the cross fences inside of the perimeter fence. This has been a large undertaking as the stable grounds take up about 75% of an entire city block. The new fence is being built of ground contact treated Pine posts & treated Pine boards. Once it has a year to cure, it will be stained black. This was not a decision easily arrived at, but it is not feasible to paint the fence white again. The paint (no matter the brand, type or expert application) will hold up to time and weather. We have followed the lead of the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, as they have gone this path also with their fencing. We have been able to replace the old fence with the help of grants we have received from the Allen P. and Josephine B. Green Foundation, the Griffin Family Foundation, the Leach Foundation, and the USA Equestrian Trust from Lexington, Kentucky.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Saving of the Granary: These bins are the next task at hand. The platforms are deteriorating at an alarming pace. Before a collapse of the structure, we are hoping to save the two silos with their platforms and stabilize the adjoining shed. The Stable's two grain bins were built around 1951 by owner, Art Simmons. The need to store grain on the property for the horses was a necessity as feed, gas and transportation were expensive. Double bins were installed on raised platforms so that grain could slide down a gravity chute into feed buckets for nightly feeding. Although they look weathered and diminished now, they served as a life-line for grooms and stable hands to be able to efficiently feed 75+ Saddlebred horses with great efficiency. We are currently procuring estimates for a cost to restore the granary. If you would like to help, please send a check donation to SSPF specifying "granary" or call:



East side

Mary: 573-473-2521 -or- Bobette: 573-473-5930



South side

2022-2023 DONATIONS RECEIVED (Thank you)

 **GOLD CUP SPONSORS** - Lynn Badaracco & Dwight Quiring

 **STERLING CUP SPONSORS** - Martin Jones

 **BLUE RIBBON SPONSORS** - Larry & Bonnie Kimbel, Dr. John & Becky Hagan, David & Mary Jo Maupin, John Walker, Joan Balser, Linda Stefack, Wayne Halter

 **RED RIBBON SPONSORS** - Bruce & Nancy Oliver, Jim & Sharon Kropf, Peggy Coldicott, Paul & Judy Koelling, Jacob Van Dyke Jr., Bob Leu, Dan & Cheri Erdel, Shirley Jones, Laurel Auck

 **YELLOW RIBBON SPONSORS** - Larry Million, Jim & Sue Utterback, Molly & Wayne Shellabarger, Barbara Robinson, Kenny & Carolyn Cox, Kappa Mu Sorority, Betty Smarr

 **HONORARY DONATIONS & MEMORIALS** -

In Memory of Dr. Carole McArthur - John & Teresa Freyer

In Memory of Karen Wehrman - David & Deborah Wehrman

In Memory of Gary Littrell - Larry Million, Don & Vivian Smith, Millie Erdel, Bryan & Susan Cornett, Bernie Fennwald, Cindy Johnson, Bonnie Janssen, Brent Thomas, Jim Simmons, Susan Ryck, Andrew & Iris Finck, Tim & Laura Mackey, Dean & Sue Woodruff, Sharon Harrison, Rusty & Lynnette Creed, Donna Stephens Family, Kent & Deena Dye, Dwight & Karen Linnemeyer, Kevin & Stacy Dye, Melanie Richter, Ruth Chaney, Anne Arends, Robin Lightfoot, Harriett Lightfoot, Lonnie & Terri Wolfe, Jim & Sharon Kropf, Jim & Judy Dye, Steve & Marti McDannold, Glenn & Anita Riley, Cathy Azdell, Dave & Cheryl Bell, Alan & Susan Atkins, Debbie Harrison, Tom Usnick, Sharon Oliver, Steve & Jennifer Prior, Julia Martin, Gary & Christi Eick, Kim Black, Betty Rountree, Nancy Waters, Frances Chrisman, Elizabeth King, A.D. & Betty Spurling, Bruce & Barb Wilson, Mary Sudbrock, Boone Therapy Team, Jan George, Stan & Barb Elwell, Essilee Snook, Warren & Bobette Wilson, Morgan, Shirley Jones, John & Teresa Freyer, Mary Kleinsorge, Mexico Heating Co., Jon & Rhonda Morris, Jonathan & Charlene Finck, Ian & Leslie Dunlap, Ron & Marcia Levengood, Joan Balser, Linda Stefack, Jim & Ann Stubblefield, Robert & Donna Slaughter, Barbara Fitzgerald, Betty Jo Sydenstricker, Dale & Patti Cone, Mary Johnson, Walter & Susan Paden, Molly & Wayne Shellabarger, Ted Albin & Jan McFarling, Mary Thompson, James & Cynthia Baker, John Walker, Jr., Daniel Nunnally



 **GENERAL DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS** - Marjorie Bain, John & Teresa Freyer, Donna Peak, Chris & Vivian Miller, Barbara Robinson, Essilee Snook, Cathy Foreman, Judy Willingham, Peggy Coldicott, Sue Waechter, Mark & Sally Stuart, Tracy Davis, Laura Worstell, Ruth Chaney, Doris Ball, Morgan, Ellen Withers, Paul & Judy Koelling, Larry Million, Jim & Sue Utterback, Molly & Wayne Shellabarger

2023 UPCOMING EVENTS

2023 Hall of Fame Ceremony: The 7th Annual International Saddlebred Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is Saturday, June 24, 2023

Barn-B-Q and Auction: 21st annual Simmons' Stable BBQ & Auction will be held Sunday, September 17th. All proceeds from our auction will benefit the preservation efforts of the Historic Big Barn on the Boulevard. Tickets will be available at Jim Stubblefield Furniture & at the front gate.

Walk Back in Time: Barn tours & saddlebred exposition on September 22, 23 & 24, of 2023

Old-Fashioned Christmas at the Stables: Plans for our 4th Old-Fashioned Christmas Event will be at the stable on Dec 10, 2023. Stay tuned to our Simmons' Stable Facebook page for updates.

GRANTS AWARDED - We are extremely fortunate and appreciative of the grants received this past year. We were awarded a grant from the Altrusa International Foundation of Mexico for our "Old Fashioned Christmas". Our local Green, Leach, and Griffin Foundations, along with the USA Equestrian Foundation of Lexington, Kentucky awarded grants for the replacement of the fence. We truly appreciate their support of this historic project!

PURCHASED PAVERS -

In Memory of Carolyn Potter - Simmons' Stable Board of Directors
In Memory of John King - Elizabeth King
In Memory of Barbara Usnick - Simmons' Stable Board of Directors

FENCE DONATIONS - Barbara Robinson, John Walker, Lynn Badaracco & Dwight Quiring



JOIN US

Simmons' Stable Preservation Fund
701 West Boulevard
P.O. Box 843
Mexico, MO 65265

www.saddlebredhalloffame.org



Scan this code to go directly to our Simmons' Stable FB page.



NEW STABLE SWAG IS COMING SOON!

T-Shirts, sweatshirts, tumblers, mugs & cards will soon be available for purchase.

All proceeds from sales help fund the stable & preservation projects.

Have we told you lately how much we appreciate you all?

Do you have a Mexico stable or horse story to share? We'd love to hear it & share your memories in the next newsletter! Jot it down, include pictures if you have them and mail to the address up above, or you can email them to Laura at: barndior@gmail.com



2023 G. ANDY RUNGE AWARD

Mexico Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023; The G. Andy Runge recipient is awarded to an individual or business who has brought great statewide or national credit or publicity to the Mexico area. Simmons' Stable is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as "The Arthur Simmons' Stables Historic District". On Friday evening, February 10th, our Co-Presidents; Bobette Balser Wilson & Mary White Littrell accepted the award for Simmons' Stable Preservation.

Thank you to the Mexico Chamber, we are honored for this award.



David Pickering Photography

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN RENT THE ENTIRE STABLE FOR A SPECIAL EVENT?!!



The 135yr old historic stable is available for special events such as: weddings, baby showers, birthdays, class reunions, photo shoots, anniversaries, board meetings or group history tours. Call us to verify if a date/time are available and we can discuss your event. Pricing, rules and contract restrictions are available upon request. Let your next special event be the one that people remember and talk about for years.

Mary: 573-473-2521 or Bobette: 573-473-5930

IN MEMORIAM

We honor those who have passed in late 2022- 2023 year. Horsemen, barn supporters, donors & members who have honored us.



Gary Littrell

1948 ~ 2022

Jane Norman

1949~ 2022

Tony Weldon

1957~ 2022

Charles "Chuck" Ball

1942 ~ 2022

Karen Wehrman

1942~ 2022

Molly Shellabarger

1938-2023



Circa 1911, B.R. Middleton up, Ben was the last owner of famous Saddlebred stallion, Rex McDonald 833

International Saddlebred Hall of Fame
 701 W. Boulevard, P.O. Box 843
 Mexico, MO 65265