



SIMMONS' STABLE PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**SUMMER-FALL
2021**

WELCOME BACK FRIENDS

Spring has sprung and dog days of summer are passing quickly into fall. The doors have been opened and fresh air fills the barn. Lights are turned on and the sound of friends and happy conversations are back. We remain cautious but eternally optimistic thru this year. Welcome back friends, brides & grooms, families, hometown heroes, classmates, members, donors, honorees, out-of-town visitors, and curious folk who would like to see the historic barn that has withstood the odds and continues to persevere. We welcome you all back!

2021 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

After being postponed a year due to Covid-19 and several days of drenching rain prior to the event, the sun came out and the 5th annual International Saddlebred Hall of Fame Ceremony was held at the historic Simmons' Stable on the beautiful evening of June 26. This year's class of inductees consisted of Lenore "Tony" Weldon and her parents Betty and William Weldon of Callaway Hills Stables of New Bloomfield, MO; Janet Green of Janet Green Stables of Liberty, MO; Bob Leu of Maple Lawn Farm of Keokuk, IA; and Marion "Vandy" VandeWall, Ring-

master & Show Manager of Altoona, IA. Posthumous honorees were: Lynn Weatherman, RS and Ruth Palmer, Jimmy Stewart, Marion Brown, and John Hook. Kim Sydenstricker, 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, Ohio, Kansas, Florida, Texas, and Indiana. Prior to the ceremony, guests attended a social hour with cocktails and were treated with

the delightful background music of harpist, Melissa Purvis. Replica stable centerpieces designed and crafted by Robin & Dan Barker adorned each table. Dinner was catered by Bucky's and consisted of prime rib, Monterey chicken, garlic parmesan potatoes, green beans, garden salad, and rolls. Dessert consisted of a combination vanilla & chocolate cake shaped as an "S" and assorted flavored cake balls crafted by Lisa Silver. Following dinner, all inductees were honored with a special plaque and their names added to a 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 Cache River Homes, Jane Norman, Bobette & Warren Wilson, Tom Bass, Marion VandeWall, Dale Cone, and *Saddle & Bridle*. A memorial donation was received from Gareth G. Rouillard in memory of Marla Louise Brown Rouillard. 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. Photographing the event was Cassie Collins-Borcherding and photos are available at [www/facebook.com/sbmoments](http://www.facebook.com/sbmoments). Congratulations to all our 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees!



2021 HOF INDUCTEES:

~William, Betty & Toni Weldon
~Janet Green
~Bob Leu
~Marion VandeWall



POSTHUMOUS INDUCTEES:

~Lynn Weatherman
~R.S. & Ruth Palmer
~Jimmy Stewart
~Marion Brown
~John Hook



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IN MEMORIAM

We honor those who have passed this 2020-2021 year. Horsemen, barn supporters, donors & members who have honored us.



Debbie J. Usnick
1968-2021

Lee Hulse
1985-2021

Ken Willingham
1942-2020

Robert Herrin, Jr.
1945-2020

HISTORY BIT

The last Audrain County Fair Horse Show that was held at the old fairgrounds (now part of the Mexico Junior High's grounds) was in 1967. The 77th Fair was it's last. The celebrated wooden grandstands were burned by an arsonist in Jan of 1972. The Audrain County Fair operated there from 1880-1967.



WHAT'S NEW AT THE STABLE?

Ground Work and New Entry Gate: The Simmons' Stable Board members voted to have a wrought iron gate constructed and installed at the front entry to the stable on Boulevard Street. A new gate has replaced the cattle panels at the back entrance to the property. Ryan Nordwald and crew installed stabilizing steel pipe "H" braces on each side of the back entrance to which two 16-foot gates were hung. Work is continuing on the wrought iron gate to be installed at the Boulevard entrance. As with all construction materials, steel prices have increased. Half of the steel has been shipped and sealed drawings for the piers have been received by a structural engineer. We especially want to thank Martin Jones for his generous donation to partially fund the cost of the gate's construction. Martin donated a sizeable amount for the new gate, but it will not cover all costs. We need additional donations to finish that project. Interested in helping? Contact Bobette: 573-473-5930

Construction Update: This past spring numerous electrical improvements were made to the stable. Special thanks to the Leach Foundation for the \$2000 grant to upgrade electricity at the stable. We were happy to restore the lighting down the center aisle of the stable back to the original white porcelain mounts with a single light bulb. Additionally, receptacles, white porcelain mounts with a single light bulb, and light switches were installed in various stalls throughout the stable.

The original light fixture that had been on the front of the stable, was returned to its place of glory, high on the stable, to once again light the signage, "Simmons' Stables". High on our electrical wish list were the outside receptacles. These were placed at each corner of the stable and will be extremely handy when we are lighting the stable and fence at Christmas time and for other events. Our sincere gratitude to Rodney Rapp and Brian Gallup for all of their time and hard work to upgrade the stable electrical service.

2021 DERBY DAY at the BARN

AND THEY'RE OFF!!!! Saturday, May 1st was our First Annual Derby Day Party with around 75 in attendance. There were games to play, wagers to be made, best hat & derby ware contests, photo ops, a trumpet bugler, with derby food and mint juleps to enjoy. Two large TV's broadcast the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby and we watched as Medina Spirit crossed the finish line first. Multiple people bet on Medina Spirit and split the cache. Derby fans came in from all around Missouri including guests Ken Sampson & Bonnie Gorsek traveling in from Springfield, Illinois. Volunteers for Simmons' Stables made this event happen and although there were some 1st event hiccups, a fun time was had by all.

Thank you to all who volunteered and came to our first Derby Day at the Barn!



FLAGPOLE & PAVER DEDICATION

On September 11, 2019 the flag pole was erected on the south lawn at Simmons' Stables. Modifications were completed on the base of the flag pole to fit on the permanent concrete base. The relocated flag pole stands tall and proud as it once did on the Mexico courthouse square. Last fall we had pavers installed at the base of the flagpole and are working with an electrician to install lighting so Old Glory can fly both day and night. A flagpole/paver dedication ceremony is scheduled for October 24. The Missouri Military Academy's flag detail and possibly the drill team will attend to raise the flag and perform. Join us for refreshments following the ceremony. The paver project is an ongoing project and pavers will be installed once per year.



Would you like to purchase a paver? Please complete the enclosed form & return to our P.O. box or email to: mlittrell24@gmail.com

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



SEASONAL EVENTS

Barn-B-Q and Auction: 19th annual Simmons' Stable luncheon & auction will be held Sunday September 19th. Gate opens at Noon and lunch will be served at 12:30pm. You will enjoy BBQ pork steaks, baked beans, slaw, drinks, homemade rolls and pie. This year we honor the Groves family: Nelson, Delores, Roe Ann, Mike & Elsie; Laura Minor-Mackey; Auctioneer team: Richard & Sharon Henke, Mike Groves, Tom Usnick. Following a short business meeting the live auction will begin. There will also be a silent auction. We want to thank the generous merchants and individuals who donate our auction items. All proceeds from our auction will benefit the preservation efforts of the Historic Big Barn on the Boulevard. Tickets are \$25 and will be available at Jim Stubblefield Furniture and at the gate.

Walk Back in Time: Join us for Walk Back in Time on September 25 and 26. Mexico's annual historical event is hosted by Audrain County Historical Museum. Many events will take place on their grounds but the stable will be open Saturday & Sunday and is free to the public. There will be barn history tours, Simmons' Stable merchandise, refreshments & drinks for sale, and a Saddlebred horse exhibition given by Sarah Track and her equitation students of William Woods University. Saturday hours will be 10-4 & Sunday 11-3.

Flagpole Dedication: A flagpole/paver ceremony is scheduled for October 24, 2021. MMA's flag detail and possibly the drill team will attend to raise the flag and perform. Join us for refreshments following the ceremony.

Old-Fashioned Christmas at the Stables: Plans are being made for our 2nd Old-Fashioned Christmas to be held at the stable on December 12. Come see Santa, Christmas decorations, live music, and refreshments. Stay tuned to our Simmons' Stable Facebook page for updates.

2021 DONATIONS RECEIVED (Thank You)



ADOPT-A-STALL - Jonathan & Charlene Finck

GOLD CUP SPONSORS - Martin Jones and Dr. Scott Simmons

STERLING CUP SPONSORS - Dale & Patti Cone



BLUE RIBBON SPONSORS - Dale & Patti Cone, Larry & Bonnie Kimbel, Graf & Sons, Inc., Jack & Betty Swanson, Dwight Quiring & Lynn Badaracco, Jennifer Simmons, Alan & Susan Atkins, Joan Balser, Mike & Jackie Estes, Sharon Jones, Cache River Homes, LLC., Jim Wieberg Lawn Services



RED RIBBON SPONSORS - Jim & Sharon Kropf, Peggy Cornett-Coldicott, Farra Dozier Baker, Tammy Reeder, The Mexico Ledger, Bruce & Nancy Oliver, Jacob VanDyke Jr., Bob Leu, Wayne Halter, Dan Erdel, Shirley Jones, Tony & Liz Washer, Tom Bass



YELLOW RIBBON SPONSORS - Larry Million, Dave & Cheryl Bell, Barbara Robinson, Jim & Sue Utterback, John & Teresa Freyer, Phyllis Hornbeck, Ben & Shirley Steinman, John & Liz King, Gene & Carol Bramon, Kenneth & Carolyn Cox

In Honor of Paulette Schroeder - Shirley Jones

In Memory of Dr. Robert Barkelew - George & Martha Phillips

In Memory of Roy Field, Jr. - Jim & Betsy Cline

In Memory of Lee Hulse - Mary White Littrell, Bobette Balser Wilson

In Memory of Debbie Usnick - Mary White Littrell, Laura Mackey, Bobette Balser Wilson

In Memory of Ken Willingham - Ginny Greene Evans, Laura Mackey

In Memory of Marla Louise Brown Rouillard - Gareth Rouillard

In Memory of Julann McGlaughlin - Bobette Balser Wilson

In Memory of Yates Hagan - Laura Mackey

In Memory of Charlie Jackson - Mackey Family



Betsy Cline
Robert & Shirley Marty
Paul & Judy Koelling
Charles & Frances Thomas
Kris Craddock
Donna Clinton
Ken & Judy Willingham
Donna Peak
Murray Purcell
Laura Worstell
Cary Travis
Marion VandeWall
Frances & Nancy Ferguson
Sue Waechter
Gary & Mary White Littrell
Molly & Wayne Shellabarger

Ruth Chaney
Don Hoss
Essilee Snook
Eugene Oder
James Rhodes
Marian Gheens & Family
Mark & Sally Stuart
Warren & Bobette Wilson
Tim & Laura Mackey
John & Susan Minor
Steve VanMatre
Sherrie Jones
Ed Kreyling
Gary & Sue Ann Keith
Cody Burson
Scott Weber

Marvin Tyree
Clayton & Courtney Littrell
Glenn & Annette Hatfield
Mark & Louesa Runge Fine
Joan Fecht
Joan Volkmer
Ken Sampson & Bonnie Gorsek
Bob & Cathy Zinkel
Art & Deb Simmons
Chris & Vivian Miller
Mike & Nancy Bunge
Jim Hickman
Morgan
Lura Williams
Marilyn LeDoux
Chris & Lori Pratt

Jane Norman
Jim & Ann Stubblefield
Gene Potter
Tom Usnick
Lance & Caprice Leighton
Delores Groves
Class of 1981 Mexico Bulldogs



JOIN US

Simmons' Stable
Preservation Fund
701 West Boulevard
Mexico, MO 65265

Phone: 573-473-5930

www.saddlebredhalloffame.org

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 address above, or email them to Laura: barndior@gmail.com



Have you renewed your annual membership for 2021?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Type of Membership you would like:

☐ Individual (\$15) ☐ Family (\$30) ☐ Lifetime (\$300)

YEARLY SPONSORSHIPS:

___ \$50-99 YELLOW Ribbon Sponsor

___ \$100-249 RED Ribbon Sponsor

___ \$250+plus BLUE Ribbon Sponsor

___ \$1000-4999 STERLING CUP Sponsor

___ \$5000-Plus GOLD CUP Sponsor



Additional Contribution: _____

Please mail your check & this form to:

International Saddlebred Hall of Fame

701 W. Boulevard, P.O. Box 843, Mexico, MO 65265

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



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