

SIMMONS' STABLE PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER



**2024
SPRING
EDITION**

HALL OF FAME CEREMONY 2023

2023 HOF INDUCTEES:

- ~ William, Chris & Jeff Thompson
- ~ Sally McClure Jackson
- ~ R.H. Bennett
- ~ Edward 'Hoppy' Bennett

POSTHUMOUS INDUCTEES:

- ~ Charles Judd
- ~ Jim & Jack Hamilton
- ~ Earl & Loyd Teater
- ~ Cyrus Clark & Joseph Potts



The 7th Annual International Saddlebred Hall of Fame Ceremony was held at the historic Simmons' Stable on the evening of June 24th of 2023. Although temperatures soared at nearly 100, our class of Inductees maintained smiles and told wonderful stories. Our 2023 HOF class consisted of Saddle & Bridle Magazine – William, Chris, & Jeff Thompson of St. Louis, MO; Sally McClure Jackson of Overland Park, KS; R.H. Bennett- Richfield Video of Shelbyville, Kentucky; and Edward "Hoppy" Bennett- Undulata Farms of Shelbyville, Kentucky. Our Posthumous Inductees were Charles Judd of Texas & Missouri; Jim & Jack Hamilton of Mexico, MO; Earl Teater of Lexington, KY and

Lloyd Teater of Illinois & Wisconsin. Our Master of Ceremonies was Janet Thompson of Columbia, MO. She kept the crowd engaged as the evening progressed and the heat lingered. She commented (and the crowd agreed) that in our present group, we had all endured times at hot horse shows similar to this on a June evening.

Prior to the ceremony, guests attended a social hour with cocktails and were treated with the delightful background music of guitarist Tim Kazmarek. 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. Sponsors for the event were received from Finck & Associates, INC, Cornerstone Family Medical, & Bob Leu. Additional donations came from Tom Bass & Farra Dozier-Baker. 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



IN MEMORIAM

We honor those who have passed in 2023- 2024
Horsemen, barn supporters, donors, & members who have honored us.

Essilee Playter Snook

1928 ~ 2024

John Wallen

1951~ 2024

Aubrey Gene Potter

1942 ~ 2024

Martin Jones

1947~ 2023

Murray Purcell

1934 ~ 2023

Glenda Pugh

1934 ~ 2023

Ed Kreyling

1945 ~ 2023

William "Bill" Thompson

1940 ~ 2023

Paul Koelling

1942 ~ 2023



2023 OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS AT THE STABLE

On Sunday, Dec 10th, Simmons Stables Preservation presented our "2023 Old Fashioned Christmas at the Stables". Crowds were lined up to the Boulevard, standing patiently to enter. As lines waited, they watched groups of guests ride the decorated horse-drawn sleigh as beautiful sorrel Belgians pulled it effortlessly around the east track. Once you stepped into the barn the sound of Christmas choirs singing carols and sweet smelling cookies & hot cocoa welcomed visitors. Parents with excited children waited in steady lines for a visit & photo shot with Santa & Mrs. Claus.



Draped from the high catwalks & doorways were live pine boughs with pine cones & red bows tied. Live cedar trees stood proudly with old fashioned ornaments and strings of holiday lights were everywhere the eye looked. The Annual Christmas event is free to the public but without **our sponsors** helping, it would still be an idea in hope of fruition. Our special thanks to Blossoms & Blooms Florist for decorating the Santa stall; The Pearl-Martini Bar for their Saturday evening bar services; Ivy & Ink Bakery for Saturday's holiday sweets; Lance Leighton for providing us live cedar trees; the Simmons' family for the poinsettias that decorated the barn; Scott Weber & Presser Pipes for providing Christmas music, The Cookie Club for donating cookies and Tony Broeker for the use of his red wagon for the horse drawn sleigh rides. Thank you to our volunteers who gave willingly of their time and talents and to all in the community who attended. Making the day even more special was the presence of Santa and Mrs. Claus, David Pickering Photography, David White of Clifton Hill with his Belgian horse team, with special thanks to Jeff and Cathy Young. Thank you to everyone for making 2023 a very special Christmas Event!

BLUE RIBBONS SPONSORS: Bobette & Warren Wilson, Sydenstricker Nobbe, Finck & Associates Inc., Cornerstone Family Medicine, Rodgers Rental

RED RIBBON SPONSORS: Jim Stubblefield Furniture, Mexico Heating, Cookie Club

YELLOW RIBBON SPONSORS: Mexico Altrusa, Gallaher Insurance, Central Bank of Audrain County

VOLUNTEERS: Janet Welch, Cathy Foreman, Julie Key, Jim Stubblefield, Warren Wilson, Tom Usnick, Casey Usnick, Deirdre Knipp, Heather Little and DeAnna Amos.



2023 BARN B-QUE & AUCTION

Our 21st Annual Barn B Q and auction was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon September 17th, 2023. A large crowd enjoyed delicious BBQ pork steaks, baked beans, slaw, homemade rolls, pie and brownies. A silent auction with many unique and interesting donated items was held prior to the meal with bidding closing at intermission. Co-Presidents, Bobette Balser Wilson and Mary White Littrell introduced our 2023 Stable Preservation honorees and presented the family of long time supporter Jane Norman, Morgan and the "Gate" crew with engraved pavers which will be placed around the flagpole. At the programs' conclusion a live auction was held with auctioneers Tom Usnick and J.R. Johnston entertaining the crowd with their spirited banter. We want to thank our generous businesses and individuals who donated auction items, and all who bid on items, the cooks for the delicious meal and all who helped set up and clean up. We couldn't do it without your support. It was a successful and fun Sunday at the Stables.

JR JOHNSTON
Auctioneer



THE GATE CREW
Honorees



TOM USNICK
Auctioneer



MORGAN
Honoree



JANE NORMAN-FAMILY
Posthumous Honoree



HAVE WE TOLD YOU LATELY HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE YOU?

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

 **STERLING CUP SPONSORS** - Liz & Gary Carnahan, Cache River Homes (designated for new website)

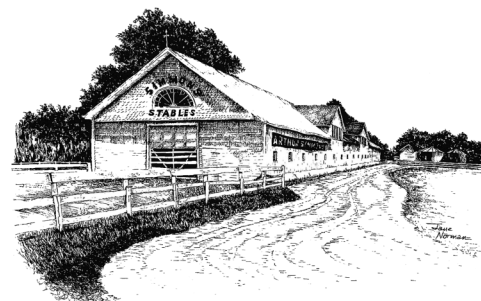
 **BLUE RIBBON SPONSORS** - Wayne Halter, Larry & Bonnie Kimbel, Dave & Mary Jo Maupin, Dale & Patti Cone, Dr. John & Becky Hagan, Paul & Judy Koelling, Bruce & Nancy Oliver, John Walker

 **RED RIBBON SPONSORS** - Audrey Ellis, Dan & Cheri Erdel, Sarah Track, Ken Sampson & Bonnie Gorsek, Harold Enslen, Jon & Charlotte Angell, Farra Dozier Baker, Lenoir Seelhorst, Jim & Sharon Kropf, Class of 1973, Shirley Jones

 **YELLOW RIBBON SPONSORS** - Jerry Allen, Tammy Reeder, Carolyn & Kenny Cox, Kappa Mu Sorority, Gene & Carol Bramon, Barbara Robinson, Murray Purcell, Mark & Louesa Runge Fine

 **ADOPT A STALL** - Dale & Patti Cone, Lynn Badaracco & Dwight Quiring- in memory of Tom Bass, Peggy Cornett-Coldicott -in memory of Judge Ralph & Elaine Maxwell Cornett, Becky Cornett Rhoads, Susan Cornett Andrews

 **HONORARY DONATIONS & MEMORIALS** -
In memory of Gary Littrell - Rick & Lou Mongler, Paulette Schroeder
In memory of Molly Shellabarger - Mary White Littrell
In memory of Martin Jones - Jackie Day, Mary White Littrell
In memory of Elizabeth Washer - Tony Washer
In memory of Paul Koelling - Mary White Littrell
In memory of Sheila Kotsenburg Creed- Laura Minor Mackey
In memory of Jarod Willingham- Tim Mackey
In honor of Bobette Balser Wilson- Janet Welch
In honor of Bobette Balser Wilson & Mary White Littrell- Paulette Schroeder



 **GENERAL DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS** - Gerald Allen, Janet Potts, Winnie Runge, Liz & Gary Carnahan, Mark & Sally Stuart, Tammy Reeder, Ken Sampson & Bonnie Gorsek, Janet Thompson, Dwight Quiring & Lynn Badaracco, Jim & Mary Jane Simmons, Dale & Patti Cone, John & Susan Minor, Lynda Blades, Ben & Shirley Steinman, Joan Fecht, Essilee Snook, Dave & Cheryl Bell, Farra Dozier Baker, Sue Waechter, Lenoir Seelhorst, Gayle & Don Johnson, Ginny Evans, Tony Washer, Gene & Carol Bramon, Paul & Judy Koelling, Barbara Robinson, Donna Peak, Ruth Chaney, Murray Purcell, Robert & Shirley Marty, Mark & Louesa Runge Fine, Phyllis Hornbeck, Glen & Annette Hatfield, Betsy Cline, Gary & Sue Ann Keith, Shirley Jones

GRANTS AWARDED & PAVERS PURCHASED

GRANTS AWARDED - Leach Foundation, and Altrusa International Foundation of Mexico

PURCHASED PAVERS -

- *In memory of Rose Leighton: Simmons' Stable Board of Directors & members
- *In memory of Elizabeth Washer: Bobette Balser Wilson
- *In memory of Katie Ann Oligschlaeger: Bobette Balser Wilson
- *In memory of Leisa K. Miller: Bobette Balser Wilson
- *In memory of Gene Potter: Simmons' Stable Board of Directors & members
- *In memory of John Wallen: Bobette Balser Wilson



Want to honor a friend or loved one? Don't forget you can buy a personalized paver brick to memorialize your favorite person or equine.

2023 WALK BACK IN TIME



Walk Back in Time is a bi-yearly history event that began with the Audrain County Historical Society and has expanded to include Simmons' Stable. We are open to the public and offer saddle seat riding exhibitions, history tours and leisurely barn walks. Education Day is attended by school children who want to learn about Mexico's Grand old Barn on the Boulevard and other equine related history. At Saturday's event, Sarah Track and her students from William Woods University brought two Saddlebred horses to the stable. They tacked up for both a morning and afternoon riding exhibition on the outside track to the delight of onlookers. Visitors were treated to a cool barn breezeway as they listened to Mary White Littrell give a barn history talk.



JUNE HISTORY CAMP FOR KIDS

The historic Simmons' Stable was open for visitors during the Audrain County Historical Society's Walk Back in Time September 22-24. On Education Day, Tom Usnick, Bobette Balser Wilson, and Mary White Littrell greeted groups of school age children and shared a brief history of the stable. Jim Simmons loaned us his pony, Cotton Tail, for the day so the children could see and pet a live pony. Saturday, Sarah Track and saddle seat students from Fulton's William Woods University, brought two Saddlebred horses to the stable for a morning and afternoon exhibition on the outside track to the delight of onlookers. Visitors were also able to listen to the fascinating history of the 136-year-old stable. Approximately 60 campers from the Audrain County Historical Society's summer History Camp visited the stable to hear Tom Usnick, Mary White Littrell, and Bobette Balser Wilson share information about horseshoeing and the history of the stable. A surprise guest "Cowboy", a black Saddlebred champion from William Woods University, was also there to delight and greet the campers.

MARY LITRELL
Co-President



HISTORY CAMP
GROUP 2023



CH RHINESTONE COWBOY
WWU American Saddlebred

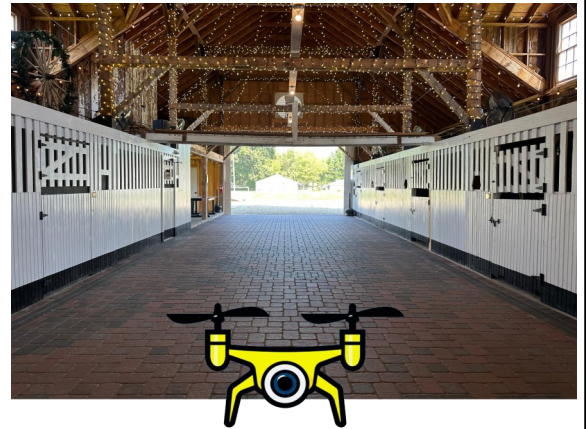


WHAT'S NEXT AT THE STABLE?

FENCE STAINING & BARN PAINTING: Spring is here, and this means it is time for maintenance to begin. Ryan Wieberg, of Wieberg Painting & Remodel of Mexico, has been hired to stain the new fence around the perimeter of the stable grounds. The fence will be stained black, and work will begin in early June. Repairs are needed on the main stable & blacksmith shop, before we paint the stable. We are currently seeking bids to paint the buildings at this time.

GATE: Have you seen it? . . . cause, WOW!! Thank you to our hero donors who made this gate a reality. Dale & Patti Cone, Martin Jones, Warren & Bobette Wilson, Lynn Badaracco & Dwight Quiring, we are forever grateful.

STABLE WEBSITE: Our new website should be ready to roll out and go live within the next month or so. A fresh new look with updated features, plus a stable & grounds drone tour (captured by *Kenny Wyss Photography*). The public will be able to peruse barn history snippets, see before & after photos of the barn's restoration, as well as learn about Famous People and Famous Horses from our Mid-Missouri region. One click will take you to our past newsletters and all our Saddlebred Hall of Fame PowerPoints and yearly Programs. Current info about upcoming events, barn rentals, ways to donate and volunteer opportunities. A gallery of barn photos will be waiting for visitors to discover.



ENDANGERED GRANARY

GRANARY BINS:

Built around 1950 by Art Simmons, the two granary bins which once held the grain for all the horses in the stables are now in desperate need of structural repair. We are slowly making progress with bids for its restoration. We are hoping to save the two grain silos and stabilize the adjoining shed.



If you would like to help us save the granary bins, please send a donation check to SSPF, specifying "granary" or call:

Bobette Balser Wilson 573-473-5930

-or-

Mary White Littrell 573-473-2521



Thank You

TOM BASS MEMORIAL DONATION

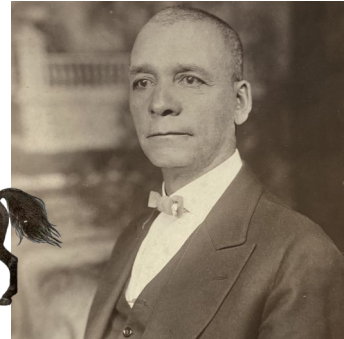


A generous donation has been received from Lynn Badaracco & Dwight Quiring to Adopt-a-Stall in memory of Tom Bass. Lynn and her sister, stable board member Ann Stubblefield, have a special connection to the stable as their great uncles were the Lee Brothers who operated the stable for 37 years in the early 1900's helping establish Mexico as "Saddlehorse Capital of the World". Simmons' Stable is the only building still standing where Tom Bass worked and trained horses so it is only fitting a plaque will be placed on a stall in his honor. The stall will be dedicated at our International Saddlebred Hall of Fame Ceremony on June 22. This donation has prompted our group to organize a committee to develop signage with pictures, a historical summary of Tom Bass's life and his importance to Mexico's Saddlebred history. The plan is to place the sign in the Old Village Cemetery across the street from where the Bass's home and barn were located. Anyone interested in donating for the cost of the signage, please send a check

specifying "Bass Signage". We very much appreciate Lynn and Dwight's donation and giving us the inspiration to pursue signage designating the location of the Bass's home and barn along with his contributions to Mexico.



Tom and wife Angie Jewell Bass
Photo Courtesy of
Audrain County Historical Society



BASS BARN
circa 1978
Photo Courtesy
of Joan
Volkmer



BASS HOME
circa 1978
Photo Courtesy
of Joan
Volkmer



SHARED HISTORY

Planning a visit to Mexico, Missouri in the near future? Make sure you schedule time to visit the Audrain County Historical Society, Graceland Museum. Just 3 blocks north of Simmons' Stable, the mansion (built in 1857) features Victorian era décor and antique displays with guided tours available Wed-Sat 10am-4pm. Also attached is the Mexico Firebrick Museum and the Missouri Saddle Horse Museum. On the museum grounds is a restored country school house, a small horse carriage barn, and a 1910's era church that are available for tours and rentals. Tall towering Pin Oaks and flower gardens decorate the grounds with walking pathways and a park located adjacent for kids to play in. Have a large tour group? Call the ACHS to schedule a private guided group tour. 573-581-3910
Museum Hours: Wed-Sat 10-4pm

Audrain County Historical Society



501 South Muldrow • Mexico, MO • 65265
• 573-581-3910 • www.audrain.org

2024 Hall of Fame Ceremony: The 8th Annual International Saddlebred Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is on Saturday, June 22, 2024

Barn-B-Q and Auction: Sunday, September 15th, we will host our 22nd Annual Simmons' Stable BBQ & Auction. All proceeds from our auction will benefit the preservation efforts of the Historic Big 'Ol Barn on the Boulevard. Tickets will be available at Jim Stubblefield Furniture & at the front gate.

Walk Back in Time: Next year....September of 2025

Old-Fashioned Christmas at the Stable: Plans for our 5th Old-Fashioned Christmas at the Stable Event will be at the stable on Dec 8, 2024. Stay tuned to our Simmons' Stable Facebook page for updates.

We look forward to seeing you at these events!



FRIENDS FIGHTING AS ONE Under The Sea Tea Party

Sunday, April 21

Audrain County Relay for Life-Friends Fighting As One will host the Under The Sea Tea Party on Sunday, April 21 from 2-4pm at Simmons' Stable. We will have entertainment, door prizes, snacks, a gift bag for each child, and a photo. Tickets are \$15 per person. All in attendance must have a ticket. Children must be accompanied by an adult. RSVP to Linda at: 573-581-7547 to purchase tickets. Tickets are limited.

ANNOUNCING OUR 2024 CLASS OF INDUCTEES



2024 Inductees

- ~ Judith Werner
- ~ Jim B., Jimmy & Walt Robertson
- ~ John H. "Buck" Field
- ~ William Lee Field

2024 Posthumous Inductees

- ~ Frank & Garland Bradshaw
- ~ Kenneth & Sallie B. Wheeler
- ~ Lewis "Splint" Barnett



June 22, 2024
We hope to see you there!
Call for ticket reservations:
573-473-5930

STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a Simmons' Stable or Saddlebred story to share? We would love to hear your story and see your photo memories. Email Laura at: barndior@gmail.com -or- text it to: 573-529-9220

Essilee Playter Snook

(circa 1944)

aboard My Valentine

Thank you for sharing with us Essilee. Now reunited with My Valentine as they hack about the clouds at a perfect trot.

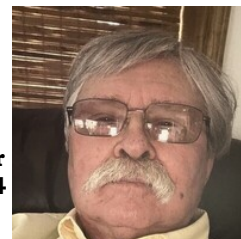


HEAVY LOSSES

Since our last newsletter, our organization has lost a former board member, Martin Jones, and a current board member, Gene Potter. Gene had served on the Simmons' Stable Board of Directors since it was organized in the fall of 2002 helping with stable events and providing input at our regular meetings. Martin began as a photographer for our organization and eventually became a board member in 2005 serving until 2022 when his health no longer allowed. Marty was the author and manager of the NAP, Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits, which generated \$500,000 for the renovation of the stable and co-wrote the Save America's Treasures grant that generated \$250,000. Marty also wrote several local grants generating funds for the organization, was the graphic artist for the newsletter for many years, and gave the initial donation for a gate to be placed at the entrance to the property. We are very appreciative of Marty and Gene's contributions and years of dedicated service to preserve an iconic piece of Mexico's history.



Martin Jones
1947 - 2023



Gene Potter
1942 - 2024

SIMMONS' STABLE PRESERVATION FUND

HAVE A HISTORIC BARN

Wedding



*Originally built
in 1887, our
barn is a
Missouri
landmark.
A preserved
jewel of history
that you can
rent for your
special event.*

SIMMONS' STABLE PRESERVATION

701 W Boulevard
Mexico, Missouri 65265

Inquire about
your dream
event location.
Call us to check
rental prices
& dates of
availability.

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

Photo courtesy of
Allie Layos Ortega,
of Saddle & Bridle
Magazine.



FLASHBACK



Here's a flashback to where we started. Tarps were used to cover huge leaking holes in the roof, boards covered the stall-windows & support poles stabilized the east sides in hopes of preventing it's collapse. It was in a sad state of decline. Fast forward 20+ years and here we are. Are we done? No, but with your help we will get there! **Thank you all**



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
Facebook page.



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



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