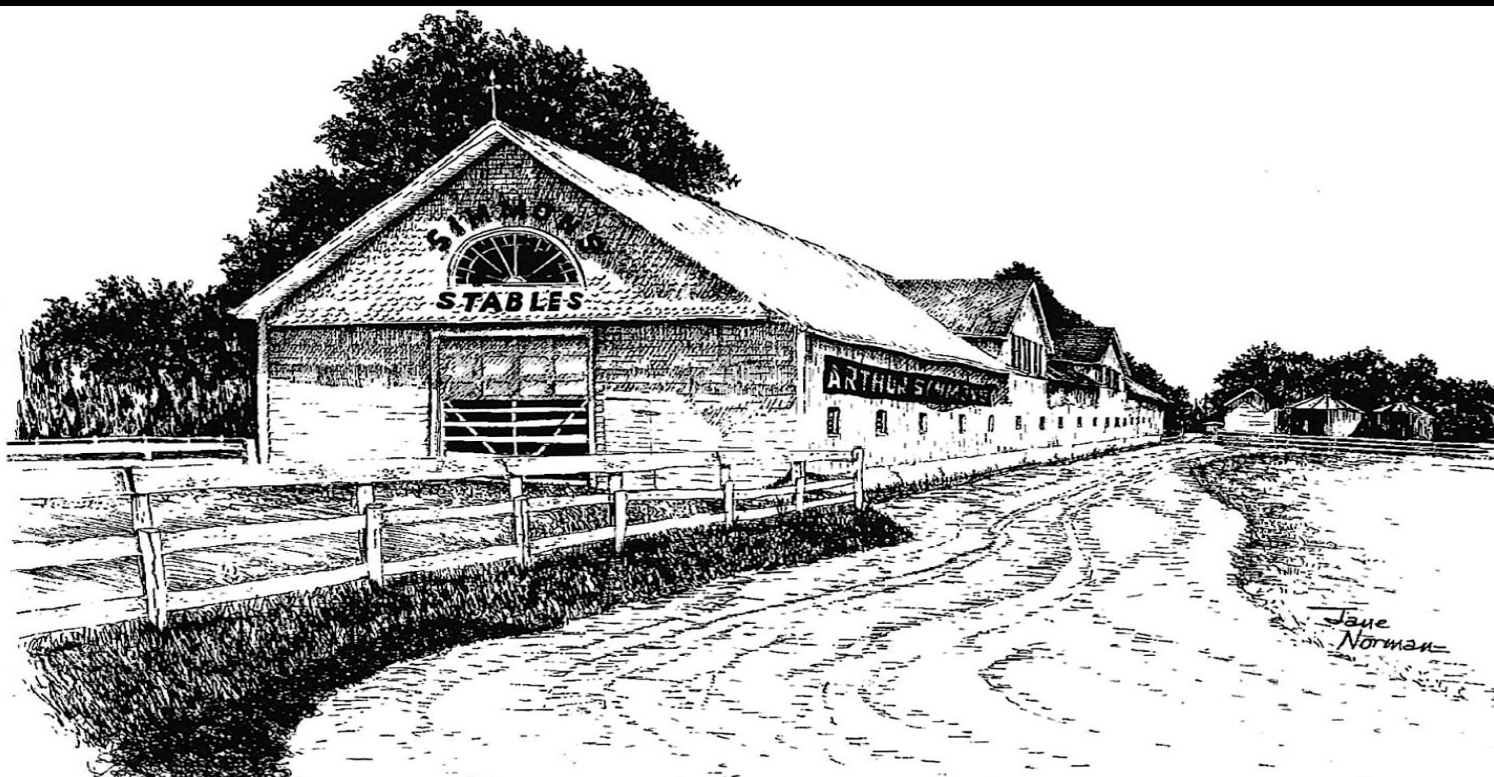


International Saddlebred Hall of Fame
warmly welcomes you to our

EIGHTH ANNUAL HALL of FAME CEREMONY



*** SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024 ***

International Saddlebred Hall of Fame
Janet Thompson & Allie Layos, Dual Master of Ceremonies
Historic Simmons' Stables, Mexico Missouri
Social Hour: 5pm, Dinner: 6pm



Tonight's Itinerary

Welcome: Bobette Balser Wilson

Guest Welcome: Vicky Briggs (Mayor, Mexico MO)

Invocation: Paulette Schroeder (Past Master of Ceremonies)

Social Hour: 5pm, **Dinner:** 6pm

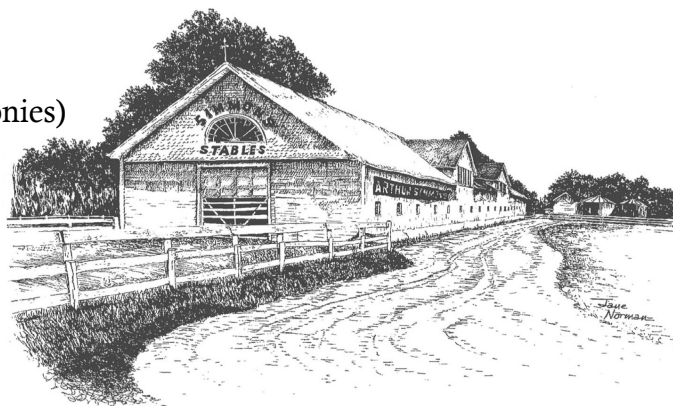
Master of Ceremonies: Janet Thompson & Allie Layos

Music: Renan Leme, violinist (Leme Quartet)

Photographer: David Pickering Photography

Caterer: Bucky's Sit or Get

Tom Bass Stall Dedication: Tom Usnick & Mary White Littrell



Stable Illustration by Jane Norman

WHO EXACTLY ARE WE?

Simmons' Stable Preservation Fund (also known as, The International Saddlebred Hall of Fame) was formed in 2001. It is a 100% volunteer group made up of local citizens, kind donors and historic preservationists who are fighting to save the integrity of this 136yr old barn and its glorious history of Saddle Horses and the people who have dedicated their lives to the Saddle Horse industry. We are deeply appreciative of all the help and good people that have come our way. We want to extend our appreciation of your time and effort this evening to come out and support us. It is our true honor to have you in our historic barn.



Dual Master of Ceremonies



JANET THOMPSON

Janet is a graduate of the University of Missouri- BA, MA, JD, LLM Missouri Assistant Public Defender for 25 years ending in 2012.

Elected in 2012 as Boone County's Northern District Commissioner and currently in her third term Current Chair of the Missouri Association of Counties Steering Committee on Policing, Justice & Mental Health. Current Vice Chair of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Justice & Public Safety Committee. NACo liaison to National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness. Member, NACo and National Sheriffs Association Task Force to Eliminate Federal Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy.



ALLIE LAYOS

Allie Layos is a lifelong equestrian, writer, and lover of history. She currently serves as the managing editor of the prominent show horse publication, Saddle & Bridle Magazine. Allie competes in the five-gaited division aboard her horse, Real Talk. In 2022, she married Quentin Ortega and the couple held their wedding reception here at Simmons; Stable.

Pictured above is Allie with her horse Poison Apple (photo by Avis).

We thank Allie and Janet for their extensive research and hosting of tonight's event.





Hall of Fame Past Inductees

2023 Inductee: Bill, Chris & Jeff Thompson (Saddle & Bridle Magazine)
2023 Inductee: Edward "Hoppy" Bennett
2023 Inductee: R.H. Bennett
2023 Inductee: Sally McClure Jackson
2023 Posthumous: *Earl & Lloyd Teater, Cyrus Clark & Joseph Potts, Hamilton Bros; Jim & Jack, Charles Judd*

2022 Inductee: Martin Cockriel
2022 Inductee: Anna Marie Knipp
2022 Inductee: Nelson Green
2022 Posthumous: *Utz Brothers (Jay, Don, Sug), Darrel & Dick Wallen Family, Howard Roberts Family*

2021 Inductee: Lenore "Tony" Weldon with Betty & William Weldon
2021 Inductee: Janet Green
2021 Inductee: Robert Leu
2021 Inductee: Marion VandeWall
2021 Posthumous: *Lynn Weatherman, RS & Ruth Palmer, Jimmy Stewart, Marion Brown, John Hook*

*** 2020 Ceremony postponed due to pandemic**

2019 Inductee: Mike Roberts
2019 Inductee: Sarah & Landon Rowland
2019 Inductee: Raymond & Lillian Shively
2019 Posthumous: *Annie Lawson Cowgill, James "Jimmie" Hite, Donna Hobbs Moore & Thomas Mitchell Moore*

2018 Inductee: Greenwell Family
2018 Inductee: Hulse Family
2018 Inductee: Smith Lilly
2018 Inductee: Gayle Lampe
2018 Posthumous: *Shirley Drew Hardwicke & Lee Bros; William & George Lee*

2017 Inductee: Jim Simmons
2017 Inductee: Don Harris
2017 Inductee: April Hill Farm - Dale & Glenda Pugh
2017 Posthumous: *Tom Bass*

2016 Inductee: Skyrim Farm - Alice Neihardt Thompson & Dick Cook
2016 Inductee: Sonny Sutton
2016 Inductee: Virgil Helm
2016 Posthumous: *Arthur Simmons*



International Saddlebred Hall of Fame Inductees Plaque

When the Simmons' Stable board of directors met to discuss the selection of a plaque on which to place the names of the International Saddlebred Hall of Fame inductees, they decided they wanted something unique and something that would look appropriate in the 135-year old historic stable. The "Big Barn on the Boulevard" was built in 1887 and was originally red. During the renovation process, some of the original red boards had been discovered and saved for a future project. The board decided this would be the perfect time to utilize the treasured boards. Jim Stubblefield and crew made the plaque from the original red stable boards and framed the plaque with historic white boards from the John Hook barn. It only seemed fitting the names of the Hall of Fame inductees be placed on these historic boards that witnessed so many famous horses and trainers over the years.



2024 Inductee



JUDITH WERNER

Judith Werner, known as Judy to many, is a well-known name in the Midwest equine community and nationally. Her interest in horses began when she was just a young child. After several years of begging for pony rides, her father signed her up for lessons at the local Missouri Stables when she was 7 years old. Because the hunt seat classes were full, she began her formal equestrian education in saddle seat, and never looked back. When she was 12, her family moved from Webster Groves to Frontenac, so she began taking lessons from Ruth and R.S. Palmer. It was there that her family purchased her first equitation horse. After showing him for a year, she was paired with a new equitation partner, Rebel King, as well as a juvenile five-gaited horse, Princess Sunglow. A favorite memory from those years involves Helen Crabtree. After judging her at a horse show, the legendary instructor requested to meet her parents. "She offered to take me on as one of her students," Judy recalls. "My parents could not fathom the idea of sending a child to Kentucky for riding lessons, but it was a huge compliment." Judy's love of horses

led to the human love of her life. When she applied for a job as the exec secretary of the Boys Town Horse Show board, she was interviewed by the immediate past president, Roy Werner. The two were married in 1975. Judy joined Roy at his residence in Creve Coeur, Missouri. The 15-acre property in Creve Coeur had a 9-horse barn and pastures to keep Roy's polo horses, and later several Saddlebreds. Their equine population grew and Roy desired to give up the corporate world. They made the decision to move to Waterloo, Illinois, to a property Roy had inherited from his father. The property had been a working farm, with cattle and crops farmed by a tenant farmer, but they began construction to turn it into a horse farm. They named it Redwing Farm. The Werners had horses in training at Hulse Stables but when the barns were completed in 1980, both trainer Mark Hulse and the three horses they had in training with him – CH Miss Boomerang, Sultan's Dianna (BHF) and Sweater Girl – all moved to the new Redwing Farm in Waterloo. They converted the property's 100-year-old farmhouse into their new home.

Another notable arrival to Waterloo: the great Radiant Sultan. "Bill Caldwell, longtime stallion manager at Ruxer Farms, is the reason we bought Radiant Sultan," Judy said. "Roy and Alvin Ruxer became friends and had some business relationships. We would often go to Jasper for two days and Roy would spend the day with Alvin, and I had the pleasure of following Bill Caldwell and Hilda Ruxer around the farm as they talked about broodmares, possible matches, etc. Bill mentioned they had just weaned a Glenview's Radiance's colt by Supreme Sultan. If we were ever thinking of owning a stallion, we should consider buying him." On the drive home that day, Judy relayed this conversation to Roy, and the first thing he did when they reached their destination was call Alvin and ask for a price on the colt. Roy made a counteroffer, and Alvin accepted – if Ruxer Farms could have five breedings to him. Radiant Sultan lived at the Creve Coeur property from his weaning until he was a late yearling, when he, too, made the trip to Waterloo. When he was 3, Alvin cashed in on their purchase agreement. "The black mare is on her way to your farm," he told the Werners. That mare was CH Supreme Airs (BHF). The resulting foal was Worlds Grand Champion CH Foxfire's Prophet. Radiant Sultan would go on to become a legendary breeding stallion, siring numerous World and Reserve World's Champions, and Redwing grew quickly into a prominent breeding and training operation for American Saddlebreds.

Their prominence only rose with the arrival of CH Designed in 1995. CH Designed was a homebred star for the Werners, out of their mare Sultan's Dianna (BHF), one of the original three training horses who made the trip to Waterloo. Judy showed him to his win at the 2002 World's Championship Horse Show, and he would go on to become another legendary breeding stallion, siring a long list of champion show horses, including: WCC WC RWGC RWC CH Glenview's Excelalante!, WCC WC RWCC RWC CH Redesigned, WCC WC RWCC RWC CH Irresistible Design, WCC WC RWCC RWC CH Who, WCC WC RWGC RWC CH Swing An Singin, WCC RWC CH Seven Spanish Angels, WCC WC RWC CH Balenciaga, WCC WC RWC CH Kalarama's Double Di, WC RWCC RWC CH-EQ Altar Of The Sun, WCC WC RWC CH Look Of Success and many more.

"What I like best about breeding horses is when the outcome is close to what you were aiming for when you planned the breeding," Judy said. "I study pedigrees. I am a big believer in family, particularly on the female side both top and bottom. Probably the most rewarding part of my history in ASB breeding is that I was able to show and win with horses we raised. That is a special feeling."

In addition to her incredible breeding program, Judy is known as a passionate advocate for the Saddlebred community and the equine community at large. "I have always been interested in promoting the breed, but when Alvin Ruxer nominated me to the American Saddlebred Horse Association board it gave me an opportunity to actually be part of promoting the breed on a national and international level," Judy said. "When I became President of ASHA, the president of an affiliate was put on what was then called the American Horse Shows Association. Keith Bartz served as my mentor the first year I was on that board. Keith believed – as I still do – that our breed can't isolate itself; it should be part of the bigger equine picture."





2024 Inductee

Judith Werner continued

In the 1960s and early 1970s she spent several years as assistant editor and later editor of the prominent industry publication Saddle & Bridle Magazine. In 1978, she helped create the magazine's iconic high point awards, Best of Breed, the first high point awards that were based on an actual point system. For her efforts, she has received numerous awards and honors, including the AHSA Sportsmanship Award in 1998, a USEF Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014, USEF's Sallie Busch Wheeler Trophy for Distinguished Service to Equestrian Sport in 2021, and the UPHA Alvin C. Ruxer Lifetime Commitment Award earlier this year, and inducted into the World's Championship Hall of Fame in 1999.

Judy served as President of the American Saddlebred Horse Association (now American Saddlebred Horse & Breeders Association) twice, from 1984 through 1992, and has also been a strong advocate for the Saddlebred community within the United States Equestrian Federation. Through the years she has served on various committees and councils within USEF, including as Vice President of the Executive Committee, Hearing Committee Co-Chair, Audit Committee Chair, and as a member of the Drugs and Medications Committee, Planning Committee and American Saddlebred Committee. She also served as the American Saddlebred Horse & Breeders Association representative to the National Breeds and Disciplines Council. Most recently she was Chair of the Amateur Task Force, which worked with the USEF membership to modernize the Amateur Rule in 2021 and 2022. Judy is an active member of the United Professional Horsemen's Association and the American Horse Council. "When I started on this journey of being involved in equine organizations, I did not expect it would become such a part of my life," she said. "I have had some wonderful people along the way who encouraged me and gave me their support. And most of all, a husband who never said, 'No, don't take that on.' Roy was my best support."



WALT ROBERTSON

For the acorns that fell from the Robertson tree, we'll start with Walt, who was born near Barbourville, Kentucky, where his father was training horses for Nola Minton at her Minton Hickory Farms. The family spent the first six years of his life mostly in California, while Jim B. was working for Mrs. Roth, but then returned to Kentucky for good.

Having a dad for a horse trainer, and especially a horse trainer who sold horses in large numbers, Walt was probably destined to have a career that melded the two interests. Prior to graduating from the University of Kentucky with a Business Administration degree, Walt landed a job at Swinebroad-Denton, a premier auction and real estate firm in Lexington. George Swinebroad and his partner, J.T. Denton, knew this young man had the makings of a good one and taught him well. Walt learned that, to be successful, he must be a horseman, a people person, and a good auctioneer. Walt's relationship with Swinebroad-Denton has been long-standing, ultimately resulting in his purchase of the firm with partners Ryan Mahan.

Early in his career, Walt obtained his real estate license and, in 1972, after having worked the ring bid-spotting at innumerable auctions, first at his dad's sales and later at Keeneland and Tattersalls, he auctioneered for the first time, and, on that occasion, it was only tack, no horses. Nonetheless, he was hooked. Later in 1972, he auctioneered his first horses at the Heart of America Sale in Kansas City. Another Simmons connection? You betcha. Over the next 50 years, Walt auctioneered many different breeds of horses in over 30 states and three Canadian provinces, ending his career in 2022, selling Saddlebreds at Robertson Equine Sales for his brother, Jimmy.

In 1975, Walt was approached by Ted Bates, then the general manager of Fasig-Tipton Kentucky, who hired him on their team. He began by calling horses (including at that first sale, Seattle Slew) to the ring, moved up to bid-spotting and soon became a member of the firm's team that worked the prestigious Saratoga auction. Over time, Walt would become the assistant general manager for Fasig-Tipton Kentucky, then manager, and then, in 1991, he was named president of the company. In 2006, Walt sold a horse at auction for \$16,000,000, a world record price that still stands today. His mantra – to find good horses, to know good horses, and to talk owners into putting those good horses in your sales, helps to ensure that every horse is sold to its highest efficiency.

Fasig-Tipton was sold in 2008 and Walt retired from the company at the end of 2010. Shortly thereafter, Keeneland approached Walt and he was hired as Vice-President of Sales, where he remained until his retirement in 2015. Walt has lived into the potential that George Swinebroad & J.T. Denton (and probably his dad as well) saw in him. The depth of his knowledge of the horses themselves, the horse business, and people who come before him is astounding and a testament to his having successfully melded the business side of the process with the magic that we all feel when we see a gloriously gifted horse that we know should be ours!

Walt has said many times that what he is most proud of is his family. He has been married to his wife, Corky, for over 53 years. They have two children, Walt, Jr., an attorney in Lexington, where a portion of his practice focuses on equine law, and Dr. Ann Mary Belek, a rheumatologist in the Bay Area. Walt Jr. and Ann Mary each have three children, including Ann Mary's daughter, who has shown Saddlebreds on the California circuit.





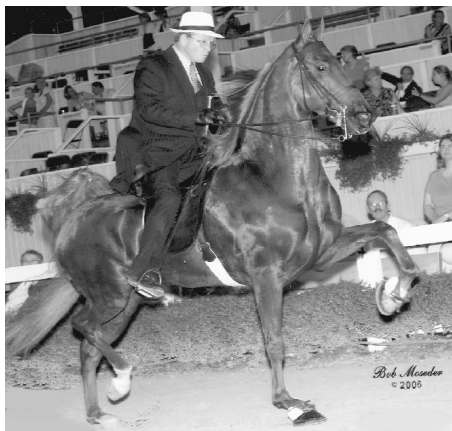
2024 Inductee



JIMMY ROBERTSON

Jimmy learned the horse business at his father's side, participating both in the training side and assisting with sales his dad ran at the farm. In college he wanted to be a vet but then acknowledges that, since he spent every spare moment at the barn, maybe all along he really did want to become a horse trainer. Looking at the paths these two brothers have taken, you see how Walt tugged mostly on the portion of the skein that went to the sales arena, while Jimmy tugged mostly on the portion that involved preparation of the horses and ponies for their riders & drivers. Through these two men, the DNA of their father is fully developed.

At 20, Jimmy joined his dad's "firm. The next 20 yrs he worked alongside the tough but fair Jim B. Jimmy's next stop was at Rock Creek, where his dad had trained and instructed years before. Jimmy's time at Rock Creek, which he calls the mecca of riding lessons, was a time of great growth, for himself and the Club. Jimmy had found his secret weapon (and the smartest and best thing he ever did). Jimmy hired Helen Close, and, in short order, they were not only working a lot of horses, but Helen was also teaching 85 lessons each week. Helen taught beginner to advanced, and those lessons paid off. Shortly thereafter, at Louisville, they had riders, (including Kelcey Price for 10 & Under), in every single equitation age group. As Jimmy and Helen developed their business, they focused on developing lesson riders and their families into horse owners. Jimmy told parents that they weren't investing in a horse, they were investing in their child. One of those lesson riders had gotten her start from Rob and Sarah Byers but she continued with Jimmy and Helen. Sarah Cronan, who could walk to the barn after school, was a rider who had the talent to move forward and have her own horse. Sarah's mom told Jimmy that they weren't going to spend a ton of money, but Jimmy and Helen found Santana's Best Man (the last horse worked by the legendary Helen Crabtree) for Sarah and that was the perfect starter, later leading to Sarah winning the Equitation Championship at Louisville aboard Harlem's Gorgeous George.



Jimmy has always been most happy to make horses and ponies for amateur and juvenile customers. And, when those linkages have been made across generations, it has been even better. The Wheeler family, which is also being honored tonight, is a case in point. Jimmy got started with road ponies by pairing the multi-World's Champion Speed Limit with Kenny Wheeler, back in the 1980's. A few decades later, Jimmy and the Wheeler family were back at it, with Sallie-Mason, winning multiple world titles in the Road Horse division. Jimmy had a catch in his throat as he envisioned Sallie-Mason, Kenny, and Kenny's mom, Sallie, all in their places over time in Stopher Walk outside of Freedom Hall, following Sallie-Mason's World's Champion drive in the Youth Roadster division with White Lie in 2022.

Like his father before him, customers and assistants have become colleagues and he sees some of the talents and skills that Jim B. passed down to him that he in turn has passed along to this next generation as they blossom in the business. While Jim B. mentored the likes of Jack Nevitt, Larry Hodge, and Ed Millet, Jimmy sees Will Harris, who rode in his program as a kid and is now himself creating a whole new generation of riders and horse owners, and Chad Cole, who is training horses and adding the administrative position of President of the Road Horse Association to his duties – Chad inherited his love of road horses from Jimmy. I suspect Chad was even more proud of Jimmy's amazing successes with Divide N Conquer, WGC Roadster Horse in 2020 and 2022, and RWGC in 2021.

Those who Jimmy has mentored have gone on to take national roles in the horse business. While many people have served as president of the UPHA, none, other than Jimmy, have served 3 terms as its president. Add to that, his induction into the UPHA Hall of Fame and you know that his service and his work generally have been an example to his peers. Jimmy & Helen have stepped back from the vast majority of their duties in the training and instructing world. Only the occasional foray- into the world for which they have been shining lights for many years. They continue to trail ride and when an interesting horse pops up, or a judging gig that could provide fun is offered, they are still most definitely involved. They stay active in the sales side of the business. As Jim B. told the two boys, "Horses is what we do."





2024 Inductee



JIM B. ROBERTSON (1926-1992)

Jim B. Robertson, who got into the horse business because that was part of what his family did. His father was a farmer who raised horses and mules, and worked the animals themselves. Jim B. was self-taught as a rider and driver and first made a name for himself as an equitation prodigy, winning the equitation championship at Louisville four years straight and later winning the Minton Memorial with Airy Fairy and winning with Jolly Boy, a five-gaited pony.



One of Jim B.'s earliest jobs was as trainer for Nola Minton, whose Minton Hickory Farms, a premier Saddlebred training and breeding operation was in Pineville, Kentucky. His son Walt was born while Jim B. was working for Miss Nola, and when Walt was only six months old, the family moved to California. That move happened because Jim B. had the opportunity to work for Mrs. Roth at her Why Worry Farm in Woodside. It was in California that his son Jimmy was born.

The family returned to Kentucky three years later to settle first in Mt. Sterling, then in Louisville, where Jim B. ran the Rock Creek Riding Club, and finally in Lexington, where he bought a farm on Tate's Creek Pike. Jim B., just like son Jimmy later on, would not just work horses for the open division, but focused also on making amateur, ladies and juvenile horses, including CH Stonewall Imperial for owner/rider Julianne Schmutz. Among the greats developed and maintained by Jim B. included multiple World's Champions, CH Forest Song and CH Tashi Ling. That latter name should ring a lot of bells around here, since Tashi Ling was also a Simmons horse. A tie to Mexico.

Jim B. not only developed horses, he developed horsemen, among them his son, Jimmy, and some others whose names you might recognize: Jack Nevitt, Ed Millet, and Larry Hodge. They would all remember Jim B. as being a taskmaster – tough but very good and fair. He expected a lot but everyone knew why the bar was set high – to be the best. His “best” earned him the honor of being inducted into the UPHA Hall of Fame in 1989.

Jim B. and his riders were a force to be reckoned with at shows across the country. If they were in the ring, you knew you better be prepared because they had done their homework and never relied on reputation to win a class. But Jim B. didn't just rely on his training ability to make his mark. He sold horses consistently throughout the year, but quickly realized that public sales were an excellent tool for promoting his business and expanding the base. Jim B.'s sales events, held in his own barn, using its 300 foot length to great effect, typically occurred around Tattersall's every year, and sometimes even involved people sticking around for Thanksgiving dinner.

Those horse sales are yet another tie to Mexico. Many of you will remember Art's Heart of America sales, which Jim B. often attended and in which he participated. One year, in particular, sticks out in memory. President Kennedy had been shot and killed shortly before the sale was to begin. Art came to Jim B. and asked how or if he should proceed. Jim B. told Art to keep going and promised to be there to support him, no matter what. From that fall sale, 53 or 54 horses went home with Jim B., all of those purchases made to support his friend, Art.

Although never easy to contemplate, when Jim B. died in 1992, at the far too early age of 66, he had just watched his son Walt, known as one of the best auctioneers ever, auction the famed Calumet Farm. Jim B. had told his sons, “horses is what we do.” Jim B. went out knowing that the business was in good hands, that he had taught them well.





2024 Inductee



WILLIAM LEE "BILL" FIELD

William Lee "Bill" Field was born in Salt Lake City to John Hardin "Buck" and Rita Ann Kersting Field. Yes, he was the one "in the oven" as his parents drove in mid-summer from central Missouri to Utah. He inherited his passion, in full flower, from his father, Buck Field.

Bill would have liked to play 2nd base for the Yankees, following a stint in the Air Force Reserves, he went to work for his dad at his training barn. One of his first memories was of his dad giving him a two-year-old to work, and neither of them had any idea how good she would be. Bill gaited her and was bitten with the bug of watching a horse blossom as she grew into her job and fully embraced it. She was the great Oh My Oh My, and he showed her at Phoenix A to Z to win the Junior class. Bud Kinney, who was then working for Cynthia Wood, knew a good one and snapped her up. Thereafter, when Bill and his dad went to the Cow Palace show, he again met up with Bud, who asked him to come work for Cynthia Wood. It was there that Bill said he rode the first "great" horse of his career – Boogaloo Kalu. After a string of blue ribbons, Donna Moore bought him, but Chat Nichols told Bill, "Son, not many people have the opportunity to ride one that good." Bill's job with Cynthia Wood, working with such greats as Bud Kinney and Bob Vesel, lasted from 1967 to 1974. Thereafter, he worked for the Kleins at Cedar Lake Farm in New

Jersey. And then, through a connection made by Don Brookshire, Bill interviewed with Ed Pendleton about the trainer position for their Colorado horses. Bill flew to Colorado to interview with Mr. Pendleton, who initially said he didn't think they could afford a separate trainer for their Colorado-based stock, horses that until then, hadn't been "Kentucky quality." But, Bill and Mr. Pendleton made a deal and Bill and his wife Chris then moved to Colorado, where he began the transformation of that side of the Pendletons' show stock. He remembers that the first horse he got was Making Waves, who had not done well on the Kentucky circuit. Bill recalls that it took some three days to turn him around and thereafter he was second to Mary Gaylord McClean on Admiral's Mark in Louisville's Amateur gaited division.

And then came the great CH Stutz Bearcat. Stutz, who Bill called one of the most natural horses that ever lived and the greatest horse he ever had the privilege to work, had won as a three and four-year-old at Louisville, so the pressure was on. Although he had been fabulous for his prior trainers, Tom Moore and Bobby Gatlin, the question was whether Bill could get him geared for Bev Pendleton to show in the amateur division. At first, it seemed it wouldn't work – Stutz was so game and loved horse shows and was all go, perhaps too much for an amateur, even a gifted one. And then God and the weather gave Bill both the idea and the opportunity to change the game. A horrible winter storm blew through Colorado and, as it raged with the snow getting deeper and deeper, Bill thought, "what the heck," and he told his assistant to open the barn door because he and Stutz were heading outside into those three feet of snow. They worked every day in that deep snow, and by the end, Stutz understood. Bill pitched the bridle to him, and Stutz knew his job. And he and Bev made history together, winning blues and tricolors across the country and thrilling judges and audiences alike.

For three years, Bill worked for and with the Pendletons and then, when the oil market turned upside down, Bill moved to California and opened his own barn. At first, it was kind of rough, with very few training horses in the barn. But then, when Royce Cates passed, Bill's barn was again filled to the gills, this time with horses like RWC Oh By George, CH Snow Job, WC Callaway's Magic Dawn, WC Callaway's Storm Warning, WC Time Machine, WC Bewitching Jewel, RWC Warwick Warrior, WC Bluegrass Attraction, RWC El Presidente, and Kiwi, for customers like Grace Arnold, Bill Shatner, and Mrs. Jean Slane, who owned a horse called CH Cherry Rebel. Bill's wife, Chris, would ride Cherry Rebel around the farm for six months before she finally dropped her back and was truly broke to ride.



And then, one day, Chris Broder came and saw her work. Excited about this gloriously gifted mare, she called her trainer, Hoppy Bennett, who said, "Jesse James couldn't ride Cherry Rebel." Hoppy would be proved wrong, and Chris and Cherry Rebel made innumerable victory passes at Louisville and arenas across the country.

In the five years Bill spent in California, he continued to maintain and make wonderful horses, for both trainers and amateurs to show and enjoy. One last memory from that time: Bill and Rob Tanner traveled to Los Angeles to see a mare called Out Fox Em. When they first saw her, she was skinny, and just terrible. That fall, the two ladies who owned her asked Bill to take her and see if he could sell her. At first, he thought she wasn't any count but, like a flower, she began to blossom under his tutelage. At Louisville the next year, she created a huge buzz even though she tied second in the three-year-old mare class, with seven or eight people lined up to buy her. The first one over the finish line with a big enough check was a new customer, Dr. Charles Edwards. As Bill said, her attitude made her a superstar.



2024 Inductee

Bill then got a call from Hoppy Bennett, who was buying Undulata Farm, to let him know that his barn on Highway 60 was for sale. So, he and Chris packed up and moved to Kentucky, where they would continue to work horses, finding diamonds in the rough and helping horses to find their passion, until Chris's illness and death in 2009. Son John, another gifted horseman in the tradition of his father and grandfather, returned home then and together, Bill and John rebuilt the business. Today, Bill has stepped back from the horse business and is getting to enjoy visiting with kids and grandkids and watching John enjoy great success in the "family business."

Just a note – often a horse evokes special memories when paired with one or maybe two individuals, but how often is it **three** individuals, who happen to be a mom, a dad, and a son? Think back a few years and remember the Saddlebred mare who went like a Hackney pony – CH Rejoice. First in harness with Bill, then under saddle with Chris and John and Bill, this mare cocked back and looked through the bridle every single step with each of these members of this closely-knit family, winning across the country.



JOHN HARDIN "BUCK" FIELD (1918-2006)

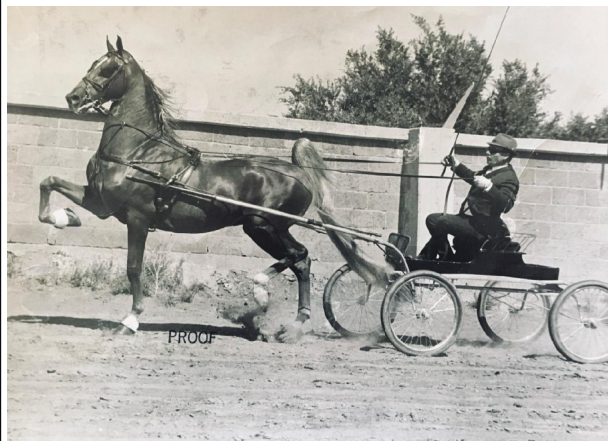


John Hardin "Buck" Field was born in Benton City, Missouri to Robert Roy and Addie Estes Field. He spent most of his childhood in Mexico, living right across the street from this very barn. When he was 9, he had to drop out of school to help support his family and, as luck would have it, Bill Cunningham needed someone who could groom horses and clean stalls. Buck's relationship with Mr. Cunningham would figure prominently throughout Buck's life. By the time Buck was 16, he was working his own string of horses for Mr. Cunningham out of that very barn.

In 1943, Buck married Rita Ann Kersting in Mexico and soon thereafter, he joined the Army, training in Louisiana and Texas before being sent overseas, where he served in Burma, China, and India, earning four Bronze Stars and the Combat Infantry Badge. He was discharged on November 20, 1945, and returned to Mexico, where he would again work and sell horses with

Mr. Cunningham. Since Buck was short in stature, barely over five feet tall, he looked far younger than his actual years. That fact came in handy on several occasions. When buyers came looking for something "kid broke," the suggestion was made that "the kid next door" could even ride this one and Buck was summoned out of the sandbox at the house next door. The buyers never figured out that Buck had been working those horses, not the proverbial "kid next door."

In 1947, Leland Flint, from Salt Lake City, came to the Barn on the Boulevard, wanting to buy a package of show horses and breeding stock to start a barn in Utah. Mr. Cunningham told Buck he should go, although Buck wasn't convinced since he had two small daughters and his wife was pregnant with their third child, Bill. Buck was finally persuaded and so he loaded his very pregnant wife and their two girls in July, 1947 into an un-air conditioned Studebaker and moved them and a bunch of



horses to Salt Lake. The business relationship with Mr. Flint would last until Flint's death in 1966. Thereafter, Buck opened his own training barn at the Utah State Fairgrounds until, after a disastrous fire in the early 1980's, he built his own barn in northern Utah, which he ran until just a few years before he died. Buck and his open and amateur horses were major contenders in the western half of the United States, taking top ribbons at horse shows big and small in Idaho, Utah and Montana, as well as up and down the West Coast.

Buck was also in high demand for his judging capabilities, called upon to serve at horse shows across the United States and Canada. He was named Horseman of the Year in 1951, and in 1999, was inducted into the UPHA Hall of Fame. Buck Field not only made some great horses, but he instilled his passion for horses in his son, Bill, who we also honor tonight.





2024 Posthumous Inductee

LEWIS BURTON “SPLINT” BARNETT (1875 -1937)

Lewis Burton Barnett was born in Mexico to Thomas & Susan Green Barnett in 1875. He went by “Splinter” or “Splint” because, as a child collecting bills for a local Mexico merchant, he stuck a splinter through a bill when he receipted it after payment.

At 16yrs old, he was hired by Bill & George Lee that started his equine career in this very barn. Splint was built lean & wiry, with a gentleman’s demeanor which was well suited for handling for high-energy saddle horses. He would be connected with the Lee Bros at various times throughout the remainder of his life. Splint showed horses for Hook & Woods of Paris, MO; for James Houchin of Jefferson City, MO; he exhibited the infamous Rex McDonald for Ralph Orthwein of St Louis and for Musick & Kremling of St Louis.



In 1900, it was Splint & Bob Hisey that returned Rex McDonald back to Mexico after Colonel Bles of Macon, MO disposed of his stables. In an old Mexico Ledger article, dated Nov 13, 1902, it reads; Luther Barnett was a winner at the St. Louis Horse Show the night the Prince of Siam was in attendance. Splint, ever the gentleman, divided honors that day with the Prince.

Later he rode for Mrs. WP Roth of “Why Worry Stables” in Redwood California. He also rode champions; Chief of Longview, Astral King, Sweetheart on Parade, The Frenchman, and Limestone Belle. He was with Carnation Stables of Pomona, CA when they were managed by Mexico friend, John T. Hook. Towards the end of his career he joined the stables of Howard Colman of Rockford, IL as a rider and trainer.



In July of 1914, Splint saved Mr. Houchin’s only daughter, Myrene, as she exercised her mare Charming Princess, in preparation for a State Capital show. The mare reared and fell backwards, pinning Miss Houchin beneath her. Barnett rushed to their aide and while extracting Myrene from the plunging horse, was injured himself. Due to his heroic actions, Myrene escaped serious harm and Splint suffered only a sprained ankle and bruises.

An outstanding event in Mr. Barnett’s life was exhibiting Astral King for James A. Houchin of Jefferson City. Aboard Astral King, Splint rode him to win the 1915 World Grand Championship at Louisville, with a \$10,000 stake. The top horse farms sought him out to ride their champions in the show ring and to train their saddlers for a life of high-end gaited competitions. His riding skills were known coast to coast, and his name known in saddle horse show rings throughout the country. In Splint’s illustrious career, he rode in some of the biggest shows with the largest stakes offered in the US at that time. Splint Barnett became one of the most sought after riders in the country.



A newspaper account of the St. Louis Fair in 1908 included references to Rex McDonald, Ike, and Thornton Star, where Thornton Star won nearly all of the ribbons in the under saddle classes, and Splint Barnett “proved himself the champion rider of the country.” The writer went on to note, “It’s a way Audrain people and horses have.”

Mr. Barnett suffered a heart attack (following a brief illness) and passed in 1937. Splint is buried in the Elmwood Cemetery of Mexico, MO.



We thank the Audrain County Historical Society for the use of their images.



Join Simmons' Stable Preservation

ADOPT-A-STALL FUND

The Adopt-A-Stall Fund, a one time gift of \$5,000 or given cumulative over a twelve month period, helps to ensure the future of the International Saddlebred Hall of Fame. The Adopt-A-Stall fund gift will be recognized with a bronze plaque permanently placed on the available Simmons' Stable horse stall of your choice.

More importantly, your generous gift will help ensure that the saddlebred horse will always be honored and preserved as an irreplaceable part of United States history for present and future generations.

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2024 Posthumous Inductee

FRANK BRADSHAW (1905-1982) & GARLAND BRADSHAW (1912-1991)

Frank and Garland Bradshaw are some of the best-known brothers in the American Saddlebred industry. Legendary trainers and some of the winningest riders of World's Grand Champions of all time (Frank with nine World's Grand Champion wins and Garland with eight), both brothers also had strong ties to the state of Missouri.



Along with their other four brothers, Frank and Garland grew up on a farm in Lebanon, Tennessee. Their family rented another farm as well, so from a young age, the two were tasked with working their family's farm while their father worked the rented one. According to Garland's grandson, Mitch Clark, the mules they used for this work taught them early lessons about the equine species. "When the mule quits, you've got to figure out what you're going to do, because you can't get on your cell phone and call," he said. These early experiences got both brothers interested in training, and by the time they began working with horses, they already had a lot of tools in their toolbox. "Both of them worked enough mules to know what to do with a horse," Mitch said.

Garland started his career in 1930 at the famous Longview Farm outside of Kansas City. He had always served as a bit of a mentor to Frank, and when the farm needed another person to help work colts, he sent for Frank, and the two worked there together for several years.

Following his time at Longview, Frank worked for Reverie Knoll and Dixiana Farms in Kentucky. Garland, meanwhile, moved back to Tennessee and spent 12 years working for Magnolia and Wildwood Farms. Eventually, however, the brothers decided they wanted to strike out on their own.

At the time, most horse trainers were employees, working at private barns owned by a single, wealthy client. However, Garland and Frank had watched with interest as their friend Lloyd Teater open his own barn and build a client base. "I think those two were watching him, and he seemed like he was surviving," Mitch said. If the brothers wanted to do the same, however, there would be a lot of hurdles to overcome. "First you had to figure out how to buy a farm and how to pay for it," Mitch said. "But those guys were talented enough that they could make it work if people would come with them."

Garland took the leap first. He moved to Danville, Kentucky and started his own barn, which he called Ridgefield Farm. Eventually Frank did the same in Georgetown, Kentucky.





2024 Posthumous Inductee

Frank & Garland Bradshaw continued

Frank trained numerous champion horses throughout his career, including Bourbon Genius, CH Valerie Emerald, and the great five-gaited mare CH Daneshall's Easter Parade, the only horse who would ever defeat the great CH Wing Commander. Easter Parade would also go on to become the dam of one of Frank's other legendary show ring partners, CH My My, with whom Frank would win the Five-Gaited World's Grand Championship an incredible six times, equaling the record of the great CH Wing Commander. Frank was inducted into the World's Championship Horse Show Hall of Fame in 1978.

Garland's career was equally star-studded. He produced many World's Champions, including Beau Fortune, Patrician Lady, CH Kate Shriver, CH Broadland's Captain Denmark, CH Forest Song, CH Nellie Pidgeon, Showboat, and the great CH Lady Carrigan, with whom he would win the Five-Gaited World's Grand Championship four times between 1954 and 1958. For these and many other wins, Garland was inducted into the World's Championship Horse Show Hall of Fame in 1972.

In addition to his special charisma in the show ring and his talent for starting colts, Garland was also known as a great teacher – and taskmaster. One of his many students was his grandson, Mitch, who would go on to train and show one of the greatest American Saddlebreds of all time, CH Sky Watch. Everything he knows about the show horse business, Mitch said, he learned from his grandfather. "It's the only place I ever worked," he said. "I got an early start because of the opportunities I was given." Though he had 56 horses in training, Garland would only give the less talented ones to Mitch to break and start gaiting. "If I wanted to go to Louisville, I had to make the colt myself," Mitch recalls. However, Mitch is grateful for all the guidance and lessons. "It was a whole lot of fun, and he was willing to help you in any way if you were smart enough to ask the right questions," he said. "I'm indebted to him for the rest of my lifetime."

From the start of their professional careers at Longview Farm to Garland training CH Kate Shriver for the great Missouri-based Callaway Hills Farm, both Frank and Garland maintained strong connections with the state of Missouri throughout their lifetimes. In fact, Mitch remembers a time when he was barely old enough to walk, when his grandfather held his hand and led him down the aisle of this very barn on one of his many trips to visit his friend Art Simmons. "He always felt Missouri was integral in the success he had down the road," Mitch said.





2024 Posthumous Inductee

SALLIE B. WHEELER (1931-2001) & KENNETH WHEELER, Sr. (1928-2021)



The only child of the late Catherine Milliken Busch and Adolphus Busch, III (past president of Anheuser-Busch Companies) as well as the niece of August A. Busch, Jr., Sallie B. Wheeler came to a love of horses through family connections. Both Adolphus and August A. Busch were accomplished horsemen, and Sallie began riding and driving at an early age around the woods of her birthplace, Grant's Farm in St. Louis, Missouri. Though hunters and coach horses dominated those early days, she was introduced to American Saddlebreds after she settled in Keswick, Virginia, and would remain active in the Saddlebred community for the rest of her life.

In August of 1965, she married the decorated hunter/jumper trainer, exhibitor and judge Kenneth Wheeler, Sr., and together they built Cismont Manor Farm, which would become home to a long list of champion horses, including countless American Saddlebreds and

Hackneys, across many different divisions. While Sallie showed several of these champions herself, she and Kenneth were also happy to have a stake horse – and they had many top ones.

Some of these champion Saddlebreds and ponies included: Terry Jean's Souvenir, Apollo Sand, Sultan's Commander, High Spirit, Tijuana Starlet, Flamethrower, Gotta Lotta Pzazz, Mark Of Success, Brass Lass, Heartland Classic, One For The Road, La Louisianne, WGC CH Tashi Ling, multi-time World's Champion CH Special Entertainer, WGC CH Radiant Success, WC A Daydream Believer (BHF), and WGC CH A Sweet Treat.

Beyond their show ring success, the Wheelers were known as great philanthropists, supporting the show horse industry in various ways. Sallie had a particular love for the National Horse Show, held in Madison Square Garden, for which she served as chairman. She received many honors for her service and dedication to the show horse industry.



In 1981 she was presented with the American Horse Shows Association (now USEF) Perpetual Sportsmanship Award; in 1987 she was the American Horse Shows Association Horsewoman of the Year; in 1992 she was presented the UPHA Distinguished Service Award, which has since been renamed the Sallie B. Wheeler Distinguished Service Award in her honor; and in 1997 she was inducted into the World's Championship Horse Show Hall of Fame.





2024 Posthumous Inductee

Kenneth Wheeler continued

Kenneth received an equal number of awards in the hunter/jumper world, but both of them were honored together in 1999, when the pair received the American Horse Shows Association Lifetime Achievement Award. The Wheeler family's influence can still be seen in the Saddlebred community today through their son Kenny, daughter-in-law Ceil, and grandchildren Catherine and Sallie-Mason, and Rose Marie Wheeler, all of whom are accomplished and decorated equestrians in their own right.

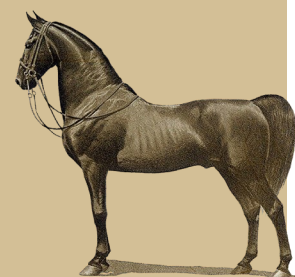


How are the inductees selected into the International Saddlebred Hall of Fame?

The Simmons' Stable Preservation Fund, Inc. utilizes past inductees of the previous year to serve on the nominating committee. The nominating committee selects no more than six potential inductees with one or two out-of-state nominees. Potential inductees are selected based on their career longevity with significant contributions to the

Saddlehorse industry. The potential inductees or nominees may include a single individual, a partnership, a farm, or an individual who has had an impact on the industry other than training, showing, and/or owning horses. Once the nominees have been selected, a separate committee composed of established horsemen and general members of the Simmons' Stables Preservation organization (having no ties to the horse industry) read the nominees' bios and make selections. The votes are tallied and nominees with the highest number of votes are selected as the inductees.

Only posthumous inductees are selected by the Simmons' Stables Preservation Fund Board of Directors.



2024 PRESERVATION FUND BOARD of DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents: Bobette Balser Wilson and Mary White Littrell, Vice-President: Ann Stubblefield;
Secretary: Heather Little, and Treasurer: Mary White Littrell

General Board Members: Delores Groves, Laura Mackey, Sarah Track, Tom Usnick and Joan Volkmer

Special thank you to the donors & volunteers that help make this event possible.

2024 HALL of FAME CEREMONY SPONSORS:

Mrs. Ginny Evans of Columbia, MO; and Mr. Tom Bass of Columbia, MO

Our special thanks to the people volunteering their time and talents, without them this event could not take place.

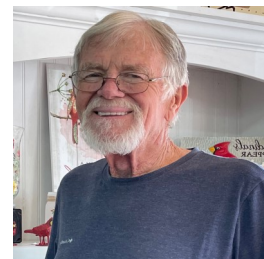
Allie Layos & Janet Thompson-2024 Master of Ceremonies, Paulette Schroeder-Past Master of Ceremonies; Sarah Track-slide presentation; Laura Minor Mackey- invitations, programs & ads; Audrain County Historical Society- historical reference material; Lisa Silvers- cake; The Pearl (Jennifer Pratt)-Bartender; Heather Little- Cashier; Becky Pehle-catering; Ann Stubblefield & Joan Volkmer- ticket & check-in; Additional Event Volunteers- DeAnna Amos, Morgan, Heather Little, Laura Mackey, Lynn Badaracco, Dwight Quiring, Bobette Balser Wilson, Mary White Littrell.

We appreciate our sponsors & volunteers willingness to help with anything we ask them to do.

Photos of the evening will be available for print purchase from:
Pickering Photography <https://www.davidpickering.biz>



We would like to thank Jim Stubblefield for taking an idea we had and designing it into a Trophy plaque that we present yearly at this event. His wood working and design skills, that he's spent a lifetime honing, are a huge asset to our group. We deeply appreciate you Jim.





Bass Bit History

Written by Valerie Schofield

TOM BASS (1859-1934)

In the late 1800's, a young Tom Bass was a green stable hand at Potts & Clark's stable, having recently transitioned from his position as a groom at the Ringo Hotel. While he was already building his reputation as a gentle and highly skilled horseman, none would make a believer out of his naysayers than the mare simply referred to as the Blazing Black. When she arrived at the stable, a young Bass was instructed not to enter her stall without a pitchfork given her cantankerous attitude. She was a fiery beast that while striking, was too temperamental for even the most skilled horsemen employed at the stable. She could barely be handled, let alone ridden, but Tom turned the lion into a lamb.



Tom Bass image courtesy of the Audrain County Historical Society, Saddle Horse Museum.

Sometime later, the stable was short of horses one year and Tom was asked if he knew of any stock that could easily be trained and shown to generate publicity. Having been sent to pasture, Tom took his colleagues to the Blazing Black and amazed them with her finesse under saddle. His secret? A new bit he himself invented. Tom Bass had determined that a good deal of the mare's problems related to a sore mouth from poor biting. The new bit, deemed the Bass Bit, was much gentler on a horse's mouth than its contemporaries.

Tom never attempted to patent his new bit. Being born a slave and by no means a man of wealth, he was often asked why, as he could have been a rich man many times over with his new invention. Time and time again, Tom stated that his bit was a gift to horses everywhere. He did advertise the bits for sale in the early 1900s for the price of \$15 C.O.D., but it was never a money making effort for him. For Tom, it was always about the horses. We decided to honor our International Saddlebred Hall of Fame inductees with a special presentation of the Bass bit because like Tom, their careers have always been about the horses. Whether they devoted their career to breeding, showing, or training, these individuals were selected due to their dedication to not only the industry but to the horse itself.

It is only appropriate that we use the Bass bit to symbolize the contributions of one simple act and the cascading significance it can have.

The Bass bit – a Legacy honoring legacies.



TOM BASS STALL DEDICATION

Tonight we dedicate a horse stall to honor Tom Bass. Simmons' Stable is the only building still standing where Tom once worked and trained horses so it is only fitting a plaque will be placed on a stall in his honor. A generous donation has been received from Lynn Badaracco & Dwight Quiring to Adopt-a-Stall in memory of the Mexico legend. 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".

This donation has prompted our group to organize a Tom Bass committee to develop permanent history signage. Loaded with pictures, and 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.



The Bass Committee's hopes are that the signage will be completed and ready for public display sometime in Fall of 2024. Stay tuned to the Stable FB page and website for exact dates & times. We invite you all back to Mexico for its unveiling.

