

50 YEARS AND COUNTING

*American Quarter Horse
breeders carry on our heritage.*

By Larri Jo Starkey

THERE'S NO SHORT GAME IN BREEDING. Gestation alone takes 340 days.

And we know the people who have the patience to wait and the hardiness to keep on doing it. They are the breeders who are in the business for love, family and their long-term vision of the American Quarter Horse.

Each year, AQHA pays tribute to the people who have done this for 50 years. You can read about six of them this month. Look for more stories about these pioneers who have helped make the American Quarter Horse the most popular horse in the world in the November, December and January issues of the *Journal*. And if you see those breeders, say thanks. They're preserving our horse.

50-YEAR BREEDERS

These breeders have spent 50 years adding to the heritage of the American Quarter Horse. In the coming months, we'll honor each of them in this and upcoming issues of the *Journal*.

Cumulative Breeders

Bar U Bar Ranch, Skull Valley, Arizona
Billy Cook, Greenville, Texas
Jim Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma
Fay Haynes, Ronan, Montana
Glen Hollenbeck, Clearfield, South Dakota
Dick Montgomery, Amarillo
Jim Tescher, Beach, North Dakota

Legacy Breeders

Allred Bros., Mesa, Arizona
H.B. Bartlett, D.V.M., Pike Road, Alabama
Cal-Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, California
Delbert Carter, Corballis, Montana
Dudley Bros., Comanche, Texas
Dudly and Acre, Osborne, Kansas
David and Iva George, Canadian, Oklahoma
Carol Harris, Reddick, Florida
Howard Haythorn, Maxwell, Nebraska
Harry Kenzy, Iona, South Dakota
Ronald Krogman, White River, South Dakota
Paul Lawrence, Redwing, Minnesota
Leininger Ranch Inc., Wesby, Montana
A.J. "Joe" Piz, Platteville, Colorado
Jack Sniff, Hasty, Colorado
Robert Treadwell, Snyder, Oklahoma
University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

H.B. Bartlett, D.V.M. *Pike Road, Alabama*

H.B. "WOODY" BARTLETT, D.V.M., STARTED RIDING AT AN EARLY age and roping not long after that. Since then, he has been involved in cutting, roping and halter.

In 2001 at the Memphis Futurity, Woody was co-champion with himself in the 5- and 6-year-old non-pro cutting. One of those horses, his homebred mare Can You Handle It, has gone on to earn more than \$207,000 in National Cutting Horse Association competition.

Woody credits his involvement with American Quarter Horses as the catalyst that pushed him to getting his veterinary medicine degree and eventually into the ranching business instead of following his father into human medicine.

As a veterinarian, Woody set out to breed horses with good conformation, bone and cow sense that can be used for multiple events.

He now has ranches in Wyoming, Texas and Alabama. The Alabama ranch focuses on breeding cutting horses, with 1983 NCHA Hall of Fame inductee Handle Bar Doc as a standout sire. Other stallions at the Flying B Ranch in Alabama are Preferred Pay by Dash For Cash, Watch Two Eyed Buck and Bee My Sierra. The Texas ranch near Weatherford was designed by Woody's late wife, Kelley, and the Wyoming ranch is the site of an annual colt-starting clinic led by Bill and Carol Smith. At all of the ranches, most of the operations are done horseback.

"I think that's one hallmark of a lasting performance ranch horse producer," Woody said in April when Bartlett Ranches

H.B. Bartlett, D.V.M.



COURTESY OF H.B. BARTLETT

was honored with the Colorado State University animal sciences industry partner award. "What better way to demonstrate that your horses are the kind of quality we tout than by using them for multiple tasks on the ranch every day?"

Carol Harris *Reddick, Florida*

CAROL HARRIS' NAME IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE INCOMPARABLE bay stallion Rugged Lark, but he wasn't the end or the beginning of her program.

Carol's involvement with horses began as a child in New Jersey where she bred, trained and showed Saddlebreds, hunters, Thoroughbreds, Standardbreds and hackneys. In 1943, she discovered the American Quarter Horse at a rodeo. After Carol got married, she eventually purchased the foundation of her broodmare band from Jimmie Randals.

In 1958, she crossed her western pleasure mare, Homemade Candy, with Pardo, a halter stallion.

"This mating became my first important lesson in what not to do," Carol said. "These horses were not the same type, and the result was not good."

Carol learned quickly, soaking up knowledge from every book she could peruse and every trainer she could question, and by 1970, she was breeding, showing, racing and judging. She purchased a Thoroughbred stallion named Really Rugged to develop a string of racing horses. The stallion also



Carol Harris and Rugged Lark

sired Rugged Lark, who became a two-time AQHA Superhorse and was inducted into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame.

"The horse I've received a great deal of credit for breeding was Rugged Lark," Carol said. "I did not breed him. The Striegel family of Illinois sent their great mare Alisa Lark to my farm to be bred to my Thoroughbred stallion Really Rugged. He was conceived and foaled at my farm in 1981, and by the grace of God, I bought him so he could never leave.

I owe much credit to trainers Mike Corrington and Lynn Palm for respecting him from start to finish. Without Mike's respect, Lynn's dedication and my insight, 'Lark' could have easily become just another horse."

Some of Carol's mares were Judy Dell, Tonnob Sugar Gal and Tails Of Hoffman (TB). Her stallions Eternal Dell and Eternal Too sired the earners of 2,892.5 and 1,923 points, respectively; both were by Eternal Sun. Majestic Dell (by Eternal Dell and out of Hall of Famer Quo Vadis) sired the earners of 7,651 points. Carol bred Look Whos Larkin, the 1999 AQHA Superhorse, and Regal Lark, the 1993 reserve AQHA Superhorse. She has bred five world champions and six AQHA Champions.

Carol was inducted in the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame in 1997.

Howard Haythorn Maxwell, Nebraska

IN THE COLD NORTHERN REACHES OF Nebraska, Howard Haythorn has been breeding tough horses to work on the Haythorn Ranch.

Howard began his American Quarter Horse breeding operation in 1943, striving to achieve his ideal: a 15-hand horse of about 1,200 pounds with flat bones, strong muscles, a long hip, good conformation, a kind eye, a quiet manner and lots of cow sense.

“The market is changing,” Howard said, “but good horses always have good value, and the versatility of the Quarter Horse will keep them in the lead as the horse of choice.”

Through the years, his horses have been used in steer roping. Howard himself won a lot of money on Last Pick 13, aka “Lucky.” Lucky was sired by Last Pick, one of the major broodmare sires Howard has used on the ranch.

Haythorn Ranch is a cow-calf operation on 20,000 acres in the Nebraska Sandhills, so Howard has needed his horses to put in their time on the ranch, too. All the cattle are handled by the ranch’s cowboys on horses, most of them from the ranch’s remuda.

“The only way to handle cattle is on horseback,” he said, “and if you have horses, you may as well own good ones. We

breed 20 to 30 mares a year. We don’t follow the whims of the market. We raise horses to suit our needs, which translates into horses that can be used by a wide variety of people for a wide variety of activities.”

Pride in his horses and their breeding keeps Howard going, and it has also earned him a major award. Haythorn Ranch is this year’s Bayer-AQHA Best Remuda winner.



Howard Haythorn, third from left, at the 1963 National Finals Steer Roping in Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

COURTESY OF HOWARD HAYTHORN

Harry Kenzy Iona, South Dakota

WHEN HARRY KENZY BRED HIS TOUGH MARE SEALY TO MONTANA Gold to produce the filly Nell Kay, he started his 50-year journey as a breeder. And Nell Kay was the kind of horse that Harry decided to continue breeding.

“Anyone could ride her and do anything on her,” he said.

“She was so gentle and easy to handle. Kids entered her in 4-H shows and always did well.”

Harry wanted good working horses that could be used every day on the ranch, and the American Quarter Horse fit the bill for him.

“The Quarters were just superior to the other horses,” he said. “I was used to riding spoiled outlaw horses everyone else had given up on. Quarter Horses wanted to work and had brains and ability to do what needed to be done.”

For many years, Harry and his wife, Inez, didn’t have a horse trailer. When he wanted to take his horses somewhere, he rode them or loaded them into a stock truck. Later, he put stock racks on the sides of his pickup bed to haul his horses. He finally bought a horse trailer in the 1970s to haul his children and horses to 4-H and local play days.

For his rural South Dakota ranch work, Harry relied on Tippy Koy, Jeanne Weimer, Bobby Zippo Pine and Corky Pine.

“He was like lightning,” Harry said of Corky Pine. “The kids learned to rope on him. All you had to do was throw the rope and drop it on the calf.

“I consider my greatest achievement is having good horses for my kids and grandkids to ride, and seeing my son, Frank, have a career breaking and training cutting and roping horses. Our horses were good all-around ranch horses and now continue through our son’s business.”



Harry Kenzy and Bobby Zippo Pine.

COURTESY OF HARRY KENZY

Bar U Bar Ranch Skull Valley, Arizona

IN 1945, A FORMER MARINE NAMED SONNY WALKER AND HIS WIFE, Sissi, bought the Bar U Bar Ranch in Yavapai County, Arizona. It began as a cow-calf operation with 600 Herefords.

Two years later, Sonny and Sissi added American Quarter Horses to their program, beginning with a weanling filly by Jess Hank named Red Cent. She raced and was shown in halter and western pleasure before becoming the ranch's foundation broodmare.

Red Cent was bred to Three Bars (TB), Top Deck (TB) and Be Sure Now (TB). Her sons Three Percent and That's For Sure became the ranch's first stallions on site.

Initially, the Walkers focused on speed and crossed Red Cent's granddaughters to racehorse stallions to produce fast horses that were raced before they were shown. Later, the ranch used show stallions and put points on the resulting offspring.

"We attempt to follow a middle-of-the-road course, producing the best horses possible but at the same time holding to good conformation and performance that will consistently win in the show ring and working classes," Sonny told Arizona Quarter Horse magazine in 1967.

As the Walkers' daughter Laurel became older, she started showing the Bar U Bar horses, competing in all classes, including barrels and poles, using horses that had run on the racetrack. She showed several homebreds to youth and open AQHA Championships.

Now an AQHA judge and director, Laurel Walker Denton carries on the family breeding program, focusing on speed



Laurel Denton and Golden Velvet Rose

and performance.

"In 1994, my mother and I traveled to Ruidoso, New Mexico, to watch (homebred filly Feet Down First) sell in the Ruidoso Select Yearling sale," Laurel said. "My mother was in failing health, and this was her last big trip. One year later, we watched Feet Down First win the (Grade 1) Rainbow Futurity on TV in our living room. I will never forget the joy and excitement that we felt as she crossed the finish line. It was only surpassed when she was led into the winners circle and the Bar U Bar brand was easily visible.

"My involvement with American Quarter Horses is my life," she continued. "It is the reason I get up every morning and ride. The Quarter Horse is where my friends are. The Quarter Horse is the reason I met my husband, (Barry). It is why we do what we do every day."

Glen Hollenbeck Clearfield, South Dakota

IN 1957, GLEN HOLLENBECK'S PARENTS, CLARET AND DEMA, WENT to the National Western Stock Show in Denver and came home with a stallion, Avis Pa. Then they bought the stallion a couple of mares from the Hay Valley Ranch in Cody, Nebraska.

From that single American Quarter Horse stallion and two mares, Glen, his wife, Yvonne, and their family have been, in Glen's words, "witness and heir to the changes through the years in the horse industry."

After Avis Pa came Dazzler, a sorrel stallion who sired savvy rope horses and brave pickup horses for Glen to ride in his work with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Many other stallions and mares followed.

"At one time, we had 25 broodmares but in recent years have cut back to five or six mares," Glen said, "and of course, we have always had several stallions. We have a



Glen Hollenbeck and a winning G2-branded horse.

number of young horses on hand, some in training for roping. We also breed for ranch horses."

In 1960, Glen was the national Little Britches tie-down roping champion. Twenty years later, his son, Shawn, won the same title on a Dazzler-bred gelding. Using that same Dazzler breeding along with his own good home-based training, Glen has won professional roping championships. Other riders have been successful with Glen's horses in steer wrestling

and tie-down roping, often winning in the PRCA's Badlands Circuit while sporting Glen's G2 brand.

At age 67, Glen still rides and trains rope horses, actively competing in tie-down roping and staying connected to the horse community.

"Most generally speaking, when there are horses and horse people, you have a good bunch of people, very helpful," Glen said. "At any gather, you meet good people and make good friends from all over the country."

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