

BACK TO THE FUTURE



History happens again:

The Racing Journal rejoins

The Quarter Horse Journal.



By Richard Chamberlain

HEADS UP, FOLKS: WE'VE COME FULL CIRCLE. IN JANUARY, *THE American Quarter Horse Racing Journal*, will no longer be a separate monthly publication, but becomes the racing section in our sister publication, *The American Quarter Horse Journal*.

This is nothing new. As our longtime readers might know, the first issue of the *Racing Journal* went in the mail in January 1988. And that was after nearly three years of covering the sport and industry through "Inside Quarter Horse Racing," which debuted as a separate section in the April 1985 issue of the *Quarter Horse Journal*.

But that was not the beginning, either, or even close. No. 1 was the very first issue of *The Quarter Horse Journal*, published in September 1948. That first *Journal* included a feature by Bob Dow on Clay McGonagil's brother Walter, who "was not the world champion steer roper like his brother, Clay, but was a race horse man from way back." The story was illustrated by a Harold Bugbee pen-and-ink depicting Walter challenging three cowboys to put up or shut up.

In 1949, the year after the American Quarter Horse Association published the first *Journal*, the Tucson, Arizona-based American Quarter Racing Association merged with AQHA, becoming the performance department of the Amarillo, Texas-based AQHA. In that first *Journal*, AQRA President Melville Haskell wrote "Quarter Racing: Yardstick of Performance," which described AQRA's purposes and methods. Haskell noted that the King Ranch's world champion Woven Web (aka "Miss Princess") held the quarter-mile world record of :22 flat, set in an April '48 match with Stella Moore at Del Rio, Texas.

In its coverage of races, the first *Journal* included win strips of Dee Garrett's Miss Pawhuska winning the Oklahoma Futurity at Enid on August 29, 1948, and J.O. Hankins' Squaw H that same day there winning the Special Derby via the disqualification for running out of her lane by Bud Warren's Leota W. Other races covered in the first issue included Rain Drop defeating Miss Ona at Amarillo, Texas, where

Miss Bank also outran Squaw H. And the cover of the second issue, in October '48, was John Mariani's pen-and-ink of a Quarter match race.

This kind of thing continued through the ensuing decades, with what some call "the Bible of the industry" covering the record 14-race win streak by Josie's Bar in 1953-54 and its offspring *Racing Journal* at Ruidoso in 1995 for Pies Royal Request's failed attempt for 15 consecutive. The *Journal* watched Go Man Go's rise to dominance on the track, Three Bars' rise as a Thoroughbred sire of Quarter Horses, Jet Deck's too-short life, and his son Easy Jet's unprecedented and still unrivaled record at 2. *The Quarter Horse Journal* had a reporter on hand in 1959 for Galobar's win in the inaugural All American Futurity and another on hand for Running Brook Gal's triumph this year. The *Journal* witnessed Dash For Cash's :21.17 track-record romp in the 1976 Champion of Champions, and was on hand for every Grade 1 race that his world champion sons Cash Rate and First Down Dash won. *The Racing Journal* shot photos when Refrigerator won the 1990 All American Futurity (G1) and later when "Fridge" exited the track as the richest Quarter Horse in history. And this magazine was at the California finish line for every running as the Los Alamitos Million Futurity (G1) grew into the \$2 million "Deuce."

As Senior Director of Marketing and Publications Jim Bret Campbell notes on page 26, simple economics in this age of worldwide downsizing dictates the recombining of *The American Quarter Horse Journal* and *The American Quarter Horse Racing Journal*. But it won't affect our coverage of the sport of racing the fastest horses on earth. Our Web site aqbaracing.com offers the most up-to-date news and information in the industry, and our e-mail "Q-Racing Newsletter" continues as is, twice weekly bringing the industry to your home or office.

See y'all at the track. 🐎