

## 2007 KQHA Hall of Fame Inductees

### Ernestine (Ball) Morrison



Born Ernestine Frances Ball in Arkansas City, Kansas, Ernestine Morrison spent most of her early years in dance and drama classes instead of around horses. In fact, her music teacher mother enrolled her in dancing class at age three with perhaps her first showmanship class occurring as a participant in the Arkalalah Festival Parade. Her family then moved to Wichita where she continued in dancing and drama classes. By the age of eight, she was living in Salina where she grew up participating in high school musicals and variety shows.

Despite all the drama and dance classes, Ernestine really wanted to be a baseball player, even though girls sports were practically nonexistent at the time. She also loved animals, especially horses, and spent much of her free time reading all the Black Stallion books and every other horse story in the children's library.

She married Harold Morrison, also of Salina, in 1956, and they raised two daughters: Kim Norwood of Salina, and Teri Ann Johnson of Memphis, Tennessee. The Morrisons have one grandson, Brandon Norwood of Salina.

In 1961, Ernestine and Harold built a home on his family farm north of Salina. Soon they bought Kim a pony, then an old grade barrel horse, then a three-year-old Quarter Horse gelding. It wasn't long before Kim noticed all the horse trailers that passed by their farm on the weekends which led the Morrisons to their first horse show, and the second, and . . . well, the rest is, as they say, history. By 1971 Kim was participating in 4-H and Saddle Club shows, and Ernestine was introduced to the show ring when she and Teri Ann entered Lead Pony classes.

When Kim was chosen to represent Kansas in the Queen contest at the All-American Congress in Columbus, Ohio in 1973 and 1975, Ernestine's long involvement with the Kansas Quarter Horse Association officially began. In fact, the whole family became involved in all facets of the organization including show management, and the girls earned numerous honors and awards.

In addition to the girl's accomplishments, Harold became a member of the KQHA Board of Directors in 1979 and served as youth advisor for six years. He was elected president of the association in 1994 and 1995 and was inducted into the KQHA Hall of Fame in 2005.

When the girls quit showing, Ernestine decided to return to the horse show ring in 1988, using Teri Ann's good gelding, Mr Poco Pride (a.k.a. Charlie) in the new Novice Amateur Showmanship classes. They won the Kansas High-Point Year-end award in that class in both 1989 and 1990. She also placed ninth at the Quarter horse Congress.

Due to Charlie's advanced age, she purchased Sir Valentino and repeated as Kansas champion in 1992 and 1993. The duo also took eighth place at the 1993 Quarter Horse Congress. When the Amateur Select Division began, she and Rudy were Kansas Hi-Point winners in Showmanship in 1997.

It was because of Ernestine's deep involvement in KQHA activities that she was willing to set up a temporary office in Kim's old bedroom after the KQHA office in Canton was closed. Without benefit of a salary for the first year, she began to dig the Kansas Quarter Horse Association out of a very deep hole. Her only qualifications were the ability to balance a checkbook and completion of one year of Journalism and Printing in high school. With no computer and just one tray of 3 x 5 membership cards plus some bank deposit slips to tell who and what had been paid or not paid, she rapidly found out that the position was the ultimate test for multi-tasking. That continued even after the acquisition of a computer.

With the patience and support of many KQHA members, Ernestine paid the association's bills, helped put on the State Fair and Fall Circuit horse shows, coordinated the futurities, ordered awards, spent many hours on the phone, organized the annual meetings, designed the Equifest booth, published and mailed the magazine every month, prepared financial reports, kept track of memberships, and generally restored the association's credibility. When Ernestine retired at the end of 2001, the KQHA had \$31,821 in the checking account and \$37,637 in CDs and the magazine was self-supporting. The organization was thriving once again.

Ernestine Morrison was inducted into the Kansas Quarter Horse Association January 20, 2007, for her outstanding dedication and service to the KQHA.

### **WR Murfin**



Born in El Dorado, Kansas, in 1920, William R. (Bill) Murfin spent most of his childhood in Wichita. Under the influence of his father, who founded Murfin Drilling in 1926, young Bill learned the oil and drilling business from the ground up. Beginning as a truck driver at age 13, Bill progressed to keeping the company's books for his father while still in high school. He became a pilot at age 16, flying his father's Stinson. After graduating from high school, Murfin attended the University of Kansas, graduating in 1942 with a degree in business. He then served in the U.S. Navy Air Corps as a pilot until 1946.

After World War II, Murfin returned to Wichita and became involved in his father's oil business, becoming the sole owner in 1970. He also served as president of the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association, president of the Wichita Crime Commission, and as a board and executive member of the Forth National Bank & Trust of Wichita. He also owned John Deere dealerships in Kansas and Nebraska as well as the Dold Packing Plant from the 1960s to the mid-1980s. In addition to these, he was a board member of the YMCA, the Chamber of Commerce, Wesley Foundation, Junior Achievement, and the Kansas Quarter Horse Association. In 1991 Murfin was inducted into the Kansas Oil and Gas Hall of Fame.

Although Murfin experienced much success in business, his real pride and joy was his family, and he was never too busy to give time to them. He was married to Betty; they were the parents of three children: Barbara, Dave, and Nancy. He considered his employees to be part of his extended family, a family that he enjoyed and appreciated.

While Murfin had always loved horses and owned one as a boy, his horse show experience began at the Saddlebred shows with a horse purchased for Barbara. Before long they bought her a Quarter Horse, which she began showing in gymkhanas when she was in middle school. Later, a black Quarter Horse named John became the family barrel horse and soon proved his versatility by going all out in the men's classes with Bill, the ladies' classes with Barb, and then going slowly with Nancy in youth classes.

As the years passed, Murfin was proud of his daughters' success in the show ring, especially their AQHA All-Around wins at the World Championship Quarter Horse Show. Bill later took up showing in AQHA shows himself. He began by showing Nancy's horse the Investigator in amateur pleasure, horsemanship, and showmanship classes, earning a superior in pleasure and qualifying for the AQHA Amateur World Show twice. At the 1981 Amateur World Show he placed ninth and placed tenth at the 1982 World Show; he also placed sixth in western pleasure at the 1981 Congress. Murfin later showed Grey Escort in pleasure and showmanship classes, sharing him with his grandson Marshall Murphy.

Although he was a competitor at AQHA shows, he is probably best known for supporting his family and friends as they competed. He could always be found in the stands between his classes, with a video camera ready to record his family and friends, as well as cheering them on. In spare moments he could be found catching up on his reading.

## **Guy Ray Rutland**



Born in 1917 north of Okemah, Oklahoma, Guy Ray Rutland wanted to grow up to be just like his dad, a rancher, whose only duties were to saddle a horse and ride around all day—or so he thought.

He married his wife Millie on October 15, 1938, and worked as a short-order cook afterward to make a living. He was a dedicated family man with three children: Cliff, Becky, and Jeff.

In 1946 he bought Gold King Bailey as a yearling; this colt turned out to be the foundation of the Rutland Ranch bloodlines. Many acclaimed this colt to be “one of the best.” In fact, in 1948, Gold King Bailey appeared on the cover of *The Ranchman*, the major livestock publication of the time.

Primarily a cattle rancher, Rutland would haul good-looking palomino horses to Indiana and bring automobiles back. After depositing some of the checks from the sale of these horses, his banker suggested that he “sell those cows and buy more horses,” and that’s exactly what he did.

In 1950 the Rutlands moved to Independence, Kansas, and began to build a broodmare band with daughters of Overtime Leo, Joak, Poco Bueno, Royal Bar, Leo, Zan V, Oklahoma Star, Tonto Bars Gill, Star Bright Moore, Levan, Red Bee Moore, Chicaro Bill, Vandy, Bert, Hard Twist, Wimpy, and many others. The building of this select group continued into the 1960s.

In 1963, Rutland offered to sell a weanling named Pacific Bailey for \$400. Luckily, no one took him up on the offer. In 1964 Gold King Bailey died, and only three months later so did Gold Pacific; the young Pacific Bailey was selected as the replacement sire for the ranch. In 1965 Pacific Bailey, an AQHA Champion, was a stakes winner of four futurities with 14 firsts and 3 seconds from 19 starts. Although he didn’t get to run in the All-American Futurity that year, he had outrun four of the top five finishers earlier that year. In November of his two year-old year Pacific Bailey set an AQHA record for 300 yards; he went on to become one of the great sires of the breed, siring race, halter and performance horses.

Not only did Rutland become an AQHA Leading Breeder of Race Winners in 1967, he also held his first annual production sale. These sales became a nationally known annual event.



### **Silver Poco Jack**

Sire: Two Eyed Jack     Dam: Poco Sachette

Foaled: 1970

Breeder: Harry W. Swick of Broken Bow, Nebraska

Owner: Todd O'Neil

Final Owner: Deloris G. Adamson of Cody, Nebraska

Todd O'Neil was looking for a new youth horse when he first saw Silver Poco Jack in the summer of 1975. The palomino gelding was being hauled at the time by Howard Pitzer, and Todd thought the horse would be an ideal fit as both an all-around horse and an exceptional roping horse.

With the help of his dad, Todd soon bought the gelding from Pitzer with the swap being made at the Kansas State Fair in September of that year. It wasn't long before Todd and the palomino gelding became a familiar sight

at Quarter Horse shows and high school rodeos across the Midwest. For the next four years, Silver Poco Jack (better known as Jack) proved his versatility by earning AQHA points, awards, and all-around titles in 14 different youth and open events. And, as expected, he truly excelled in the roping events.

From 1976 through 1979, Jack won nearly every year end roping award the KJQHA offered, totaling more than a dozen state titles. He qualified numerous times for the AQHA World Show, making several final go rounds and placing in the top three on three separate occasions. In 1976 and 1977 he finished in the top three on the AQHA Honor Roll behind fellow Kansan and roping partner Doug Allen.

In 1978 and 1979 Jack and Todd had their most successful campaigns. At the end of each of those years, Jack and Todd were awarded the AQHA Honor Roll championship in both Steer Roping and Breakaway Roping, giving them a total of four national youth titles.

Jack also received an unexpected and unplanned award at the end of 1979. Many times throughout the year, Jack and Todd would be asked to enter the open roping to make it a full class. However, they weren't just any fill-in. After winning a six point class (the most at the time) in Nebraska, Todd was jokingly informed that he and Jack might not get asked to fill-in anymore. The result was that at the end of that year, Jack had accumulated enough points to be awarded the AQHA High Point Steer Roping Gelding to go along with his two youth Honor Roll titles.

Along with their success in the AQHA, Jack and Todd were also consistent winners in the Kansas High School Rodeo Association. In 1976 they teamed up with Cal Cofer to qualify for the National High School Rodeo Finals and then again two years later with partner Todd Domer.

In 1980, Todd was busy with school at Kansas State University, and Jack still had many good years ahead of him, so Jack was sold to the Adamson family of Cody, Nebraska. Although removed from the AQHA spotlight, Jack continued his winning ways in the rodeo arena. Taylor Adamson rode Jack to prominence in National Little Britches, high school rodeo, and college rodeo competition. Jack spent the rest of his days with a ranching family near Valentine, Nebraska, in the Sand Hills of his youth.

Silver Poco Jack was inducted into the KQHA Hall of fame for his outstanding achievements on the state and national levels.

### **Zan Gold Jack**

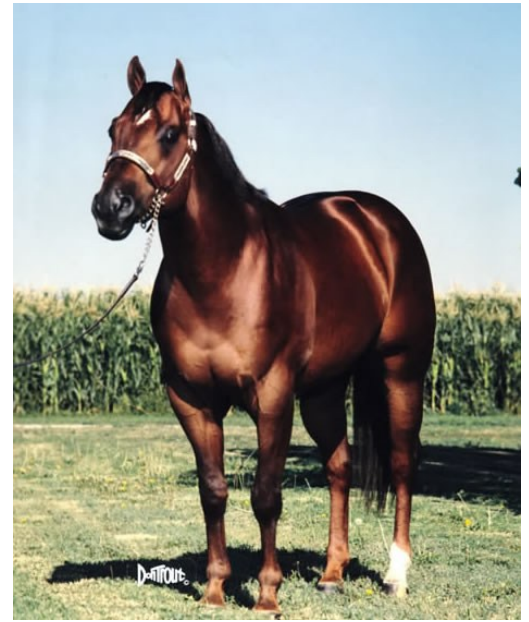
Sire: Zan Parr Bar    Dam: Miss Goldie Jack

Breeder: Jerald Riemann

Owners: Jerald Riemann and Billy Allen

Billy Allen was quite impressed with the 1981 old sorrel stallion that owner Jerald Riemann sent to him for training as a two year-old. In fact, he was so impressed with the young stallion's looks and athletic ability that he bought a half interest in him. And with that purchase an outstanding team was formed.

In the show pen Zan Gold Jack quickly began to earn points in a variety of events. In all he earned 19 halter and 231 performance points, obtaining both a performance ROM and an AQHA Championship along with two Superior awards in heading and heeling. In addition he was the 1985 World Champion in Junior Heeling and also won a third place in Working Cow Horse. The stallion also went on to earn the High Point Heeling Stallion award in Honor Roll standing that same year.



As a breeding horse Zan Gold Jack had only 10 foal crops totaling 210 registered offspring. He had 1 foal attempt the race track with seven starts, but no earnings. In the show pen his foals have earned a total of 120.5 open halter, 12.5 amateur halter, and 7.5 youth halter points. In performance they have earned a total of 3,135.5 open; 1,901 amateur; and 291.5 youth points. His offspring have also earned a total of 5 open halter ROMs, 33 open performance ROMs, 19 amateur performance ROMs, and 8 youth performance ROMs. Four of these horses have gone on to earn AQHA Championships.

Superior performance awards have been earned by 17 open and 10 amateur horses. Show all-around wins have totaled 78 in open, 36 in amateur, and 12 in youth competition.

Sixty-eight of Zan Gold Jack's offspring have earned a total of 5,468.5 points in all divisions, with Incentive Fund earnings totaling \$167,117.44 and those from the AQHA World Show totaling \$11,677.97. In addition his foals have earned money in NCHA, NRHA, and NSBA competition. They have also earned 59 points in PHBA shows. In Honor Roll competition, two of Zan Gold Jack's foals have earned five high point wins. One of them, Jack Fiddler, won an All Around High Point award for owners Roseanne and Francesca Sternberg.

Zan Gold Jack was inducted into the KQHA Hall of Fame for his outstanding achievement on the state and national levels and contributions to the Quarter Horse industry.