

2005 KQHA Hall of Fame Inductees

Harold Morrison (1933 – 2022)



No sooner had Harold and Ernestine Morrison built a home on the Morrison family farm north of Salina than they decided to purchase a pony for their daughter Kim. Kim's curiosity about all the horse trailers going to town past their house led them to their first horse show, and from there. . . well, little did they realize at that time how involved they would become with the Kansas Quarter Horse Association. That involved meant the pony was soon replaced by registered Quarter Horses for both girls, shows, clinics, better horses, better vehicles and trailers and, of course, more shows. When Kim and Terri married and left home, Ernestine took over showing in Novice Amateur classes.

While the rest of the family was showing, Harold began helping put on the shows they were attending. In fact, over the years Harold has worked or managed shows for Silver Spurs Saddle Club, 81-40 Saddle Club, Mid-West Circuit, Memorial Day Circuit, Southwind Circuit, and the

Beat the Heat Circuit. He has been involved in every facet of putting on a show--hiring judges, assigning stalls, ordering and delivering shavings, setting jumps and trail obstacles, supporting the entry office and even running a cattle chute in the boiling sun. He has been a part of show management at the Kansas Youth sponsored shows for 25 years, the Kansas State Fair Quarter Horse Show for 23 years, and the KQHA Fall Circuit for 18 years.

Harold was elected to the Kansas Quarter Horse Association Board of Directors in 1979 and during his tenure served as head of the Show and Contest Committee and on the Youth Scholarship committee. In addition, he has been the KQHA delegate to the Kansas State Fair Equine Committee since it was formed more than fourteen years ago.

He was appointed Assistant Youth Advisor in 1980 and served as Youth Advisor from 1981 through 1986 during which time the Kansas Youth Team took World Champion honors twice. Harold again served as Assistant Youth Advisor from 1990 to 1993.

Harold became KQHA Vice President in 1992 and served as President during 1994-1995. Here he faced his greatest challenge: the KQHA had been operating in the red for many years and was close to folding. When the Board of Directors decided in April of 1995 to close the office in Canton, Harold and Ernestine took what few records there were home to Kim's old bedroom. At this time they were faced with less than \$40 in the association's checking account to cover several large unpaid bills. However, with the help and cooperation of many KQHA members, they began to dig the KQHA out of a very deep hole. When the Morrisons retired six years later, the Kansas Quarter Horse association was once more financially secure, the magazine was holding its own, and membership credibility had been restored.

Harold passed away September 2, 2022 in Salina, KS. He leaves behind his wife Ernestine and daughters.

Karen Russell

Karen Russell feels she has been very fortunate to combine the two passions in her life: horses and teaching.

A Kansas native, Karen has been riding as long as she can remember. A photo of her at five years of age shows her astride her pony Sarah in Nickerson, Kansas. As an adult, Karen taught elementary school students for 23 years working with both regular and special education students. Although teachers have plenty to do during the regular school day, Karen continued working with students long after the final bell had rung. During most of her teaching career she coached all girls' sports offered.

As if teaching and coaching didn't make for a long enough day, Karen could be found in the saddle most nights from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. with the weekends spent hauling to shows. Eventually the time came when she had to give up teaching and concentrate on the horses, but even then, she spent much time teaching riding techniques to both youth and adults. These clinics were and are still extremely popular.

During her 30 years as a trainer and riding instructor, Karen has trained and shown horses in a variety of events and coached youth to numerous World Championships and year-end awards. In fact, most of the youth in the 1979 Kansas Youth World Championship team had been coached or taught by Karen at some time during their show careers.

While Karen specializes in English and Western rail classes as well as horsemanship and English equitation classes, she says she really enjoys the speed events as well. She still has several photos that show her participating in the racing events; one shows her aboard Dutch Cole as he won the barrel racing class in the GRA Rodeo in Strong City in 1972, and another shows her winning the Hidden Valley KWHHA State finals on Roneys Penny in 1967.

Although Karen has not taught in the public school system for many years, she still uses the techniques she learned in the classroom to focus on individual learning styles. An article in Quarter Horse journal several years ago emphasized these techniques.

Karen has been a longtime member of both the Kansas Quarter Horse Association and the American Quarter Horse Association. She is also listed as an AQHA Professional Horseman. As a judge for both the AQHA and the NSBA, Karen has traveled across the country and judged at some of the nation's top shows.



Rooster Bars

1962 Sorrel Stallion

Sire: Quincy Bar Dam: Miss Marty

Bred By: Donald L. Zenor - Dighton, KS

Owned By: Duane & Marlene Putnam - Hoyt, KS

Rooster Bars earned 27 halter and 21 performance in the open division along with an open register of merit and AQHA championship. He was the sire of 273 registered foals from 26 crops with 38 foals being shown in AQHA competition. These foals earned a total of 127 open halter points, and 261 open performance points with 7 open register of merits, 1 superior performance award and 1 AQHA champion. In the amateur division they earned a total of 50.5 performance points with 1 amateur register of merit. In the youth division they earned 61.5 halter points and 510 performance points with 7 performance register of merits, 1 superior performance award, 46 all around awards, 1 AQHA youth championships, and 1 youth supreme championship. The total number of points earned by his offspring is 1, 010 and 31 of them were involved in that total. His foals also earned \$2,718.36 in NCHA competition and 492 Palomino Horse Breeders Halter points and 2,922 Palomino Horse Breeders Performance points.