



## Harold Calhoun

Appaloosa racing was in its glory days in Colorado when Harold Calhoun got involved, and the business proved productive for this Byers, Colorado, cattle rancher and Appaloosa owner and breeder.

Harold was 22 when he bought his first racehorse in 1950, and he bought his first Appaloosa racehorse in 1965. He was introduced to Appaloosa great High Hand, and became co-owner of the stallion in 1966. "He was such a tremendous horse," Harold reminisces.

High Hand stood alternately at Harold's ranch and at Martin Abrahamson's place in Boone, Colorado. "He was a racehorse and a cutting horse," Harold says. "He was quite a sire, and his colts did really well." High Hand was the basis for Harold's breeding program, and produced numerous winners including the notable Patty Hand.

The 1962 mare, also a grand champion halter mare, was the winner of the 1965 World Wide Derby, a win that sticks out in Harold's mind as one of his most memorable; she defeated Gimpy's Wimpy, the 1964 World Wide Futurity winner.

Harold farmed and ranched in Colorado, and racing gave him the opportunity to travel and meet people. His racehorses traveled the country, even flying from Los Angeles to Chicago.

Mr. War Jet, a 1971 stallion by War Don and out of Miss Jet Van (AQHA), had been

running in California when Harold took the opportunity to run him in the first Appaloosa race at the famous Arlington Park. "We threw him on an airplane from L.A. to Chicago," Harold says. "Bucky Wheeler, the trainer, flew along with the horse."

It was Labor Day weekend in 1974, and the track scheduled three Appaloosa races. It was the only time Harold would race there but, "That was really impressive to have a race in Chicago," he says. Mr. War Jet won his trial heat by six lengths and placed third in the finals.

In 1968 Harold was tied as the leading ApHC owner with the most wins and most winning horses with other notable names including John Colyer, Bill Moore, Bill Robinson and Jake Snipes. The following year, he topped the list.

In 1973 he was part of the first group of race owners and breeders to be awarded a bronze medallion; Harold collected a medallion for Mr. War Jet. Other distinguished horses from his program include Amber Jag Hancock, High Request, Judge-Me-Not, Lovin Bug, Patty's Question and War Don's Darling.

Though he dispersed much of his stock in 1972 and 1975, Harold continued to race his elite horses, and still has two on the track racing today. "I was so fortunate to have nice horses," Harold says. "We didn't win everything, but we sure won our share."

