

MeterMaid

ApHC Hall of Fame

Don't let the name Meter Maid fool you. This mare was one of the pioneer Appaloosa rodeo horses, starring in the 1984 National Finals Rodeo (NFR) in Oklahoma City and winning countless rodeos with NFR and Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association champion, Paul Tierney.

In an era when rodeos were populated with solid horses, Tierney went against the grain by using an Appaloosa to compete—a bet that paid off handsomely with winnings in 1984 totaling more than \$80,000. In December of that year, the pair became the first Appaloosa Horse Club APEX Award winners by finishing in the top ten of the average in the NFR calf roping. The well-oiled teamwork between Paul and Meter secured them a \$5,000 check from the ApHC.

Tierney bought Meter Maid, a fifth-generation Appaloosa on her sire's side, in 1983 when his previous horse was not winning events. "The only thing that I didn't like about her was that she was a mare," Tierney said in an article from November, 1984. "That entered my mind more than her being an Appaloosa."

Looking for luck with a new horse, he went to Keith and Penny Howell's ranch, videotaped himself roping on her, then bought her after analyzing the tape. Meter Maid developed a bowed tendon and had to sit out the rest of that year. He started riding her again in April 1984, and started racing her in May at jackpots, winning every single one and surprising fellow cowboys.

Foaled in 1977 by Front Street and out of Lively Lassie (QH), Meter Maid was bred by the Howells. They had a hard time parting with her as she had been ridden and become loved by all members of the family, including the children. As their horse, Meter was a halter winner, many-time grand champion mare and a qualifier for the World Show in roping.

Meter Maid had numerous successes in the Camas Prairie Stump race, timed heading & heeling, judged tie-down roping, senior reining and timed tie-down roping—mostly prior to the national point system. A popular ambassador for the breed, Meter Maid broke more than timing barriers—she opened a great door and forged a clear path for spotted horses on the professional rodeo circuit.

