



## Clarence “Court” Courtright

It's no small feat to be the jockey reported to have ridden more Appaloosas to world and track records during his day, and Clarence “Court” Courtright certainly earned his spot in the Appaloosa Racing Hall of Fame with his efforts.

His story starts in Perkins, Oklahoma. “I was quite small,” Court explains. “So I got acquainted with guys that had [racehorses]. I started riding in match races.” Court was 13 when those rides began, and he never stopped.

Trainers took notice of Court as he traveled the West visiting different tracks. He was in demand to ride in almost everything, from the state fair level to the biggest futurity. In 1967 Court was the leading ApHC jockey with most wins, and through 1974 he was consistently in the top, earning that achievement again in 1973.

In 1974 he experienced a bad spill that put him in intensive care. Though it marked the end of his professional career, it didn't take him out of the saddle. To this day, Court still exercises his own horses.

“I'm careful,” he says. “I won't ride an outside horse. I know that when I get one, if I do get off, I'll be on my feet!” After his accident, Court was recruited to work at Portland Meadows, where he was assistant racing secretary.

He credits six men with involving him with Appaloosas: Robert Blair, Don Collins, Lee Hanson, Leon Kennedy, Joe King

and Bucky Wheeler. “Ordinarily I was getting the best of the horseflesh,” Court reminisces. He was on the tracks during the Appaloosa's heyday. “At first, they were just another horse trying to get enough publicity to run,” he remembers. “It was promoted very hard in California, and that's what brought Appaloosas to the track.”

And that includes the record-setting Apache Double. “He probably was the fastest Appaloosa that ever stepped foot on earth,” Court says. “There may be horses with faster times, but put him on the track with them, and he'd win.” The 1969 stallion was by Double Reigh (JC) and out of Run Around; of 21 starts he won 18.

Besides riding Apache Double to numerous wins, Court's other notable mounts include wins aboard Apache King S., Comanche Warbonnet, Divideck, Double Patch and Nina Syringa.

Court's riding abilities also took him into the arena, and he took the Appaloosa Princess Bonnet to Canada and was the reserve Canadian National jumper and Canadian National hunter champion.

Throughout the years, Court kept a few horses of his own on the tracks, and worked for the U.S. Post Office. He currently resides in Athol, Idaho, and still has Thoroughbreds on the tracks in California.

