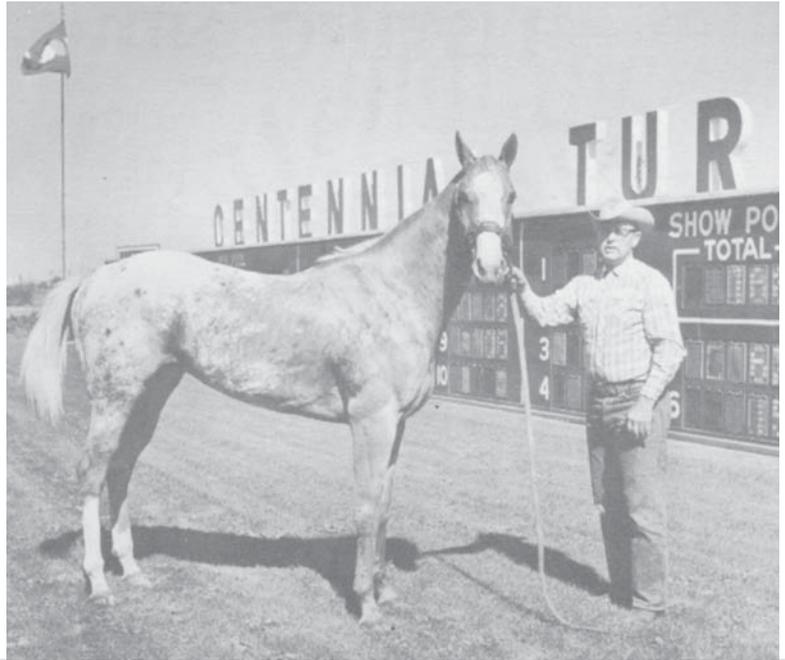


Jake Snipes



There wasn't a time in his life that Jake Snipes didn't truly enjoy horses. Born on a farm in central Texas in 1906, the environment was ripe to grow a truly dedicated horseman who enjoyed Appaloosas for quite a time.

In his late teens, Jake worked for the Texas state road department, working his team on the shoulders of the road, a difficult job he was awarded because of his knack for controlling his team of horses.

In 1937 he moved to Clovis, New Mexico, and went into tire repair. He owned an Appaloosa named "Rex," whom he taught tricks like bowing, rearing and counting. He began calf roping in the early '40s, which later led to performance classes with Quarter Horses.

It was in the mid-50s when he semi-retired from the tire business and began to pursue breeding Appaloosas. "He went to Oklahoma City and bought a stallion, Little Elk, from J.E. Baker," says Bob Snipes, Jake's son and business partner. "That's how the Snipes Appaloosa Acres, Jake Snipes and Sons, started."

The next stallion he bought was the legendary Commanche's Equal, a 1952 stallion by Mansfield's Comanche. He built his breeding program using that stallion and good Quarter and Thoroughbred crosses. Jake eventually co-owned and stood at stud the Hall of Fame stallion Wild Hope.

"Dad never ran horses before," Bob reminisces. "He was very competitive. He

considered Appaloosas a tremendous challenge, that hey, he could raise a good Appaloosa horse."

The family's first successful racer was 2007 Hall of Fame inductee Gold Strike's Equal, a 1963 stallion by the Snipes' stallion Commanche's Equal and out of Whirling Ex (JC). "Gold Strike' was just a yearling. He was kind of a stringy, thin-made colt that had good conformation," Bob says. The man selling him, Ace Hooper, negotiated with Jake on a purchase price. "Dad told him, 'I'll tell you what, Ace. I'm going to run this colt, and if he wins the World Wide I'll give you another \$500.'"

The colt was entered in the 1965 World Wide Futurity, and sure enough, he won. "The first thing Dad did was call Ace and tell him, 'I owe you \$500,'" Bob says. Gold Strike raced until 1969 and earned \$18,239. He followed up the next year, placing second in the 1966 World Wide Derby.

Jake's impact on the Appaloosa breed was significant—during the early '60s and '70s he became the one of the largest and most successful stakes and medallion winning breeding farms in the southwest U.S. Jake was married to Melba, and they had another son, Art. "He loved horses," Bob says. "He was just a true, down-to-earth horseman."