

2015 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HORDERN FAMILY

The Australian Quarter Horse Association honours the HORDERN FAMILY with induction into the Hall of Fame.

The Hordern family's influence on the development of the Quarter Horse breed in Australia extends for more than a decade prior to the 1964 formation of the AQHA as a breed registry. The late Samuel Hordern Snr. together with Sir Rupert Clarke, Peter Baillieu and Robert J. Kleberg Jnr. of the King Ranch (USA) were, in 1953, introducing Santa Gertrudis cattle to Australia. At the same time, Samuel Hordern Snr. and Robert J. Kleberg Jnr were also in the process of selecting four King Ranch bred Quarter Horse stallions to import to Australia.



One of the four stallions, MESCAL Q-35, son of King Ranch sire WIMPY 1 (USA-107235) was gifted to Samuel Hordern Snr. After arrival in Sydney in May, 1954 MESCAL stood at the Hordern's Retford Park Stud in Bowral, NSW.



With no purebred Quarter Horse mares available at this time, the Hordern family purchased a number of Stud Book thoroughbred mares to breed to MESCAL. The resulting foals became foundation horses, not only for the Hordern Stud, but also for the breed. Their quality was such that it was considered that if you owned a horse that traced to MESCAL, you were a fine judge of horseflesh. In 1970 MESCAL was awarded the AQHA Award of Honour for his contribution to the industry. MESCAL spent his entire lifetime in Australia with the Hordern family, and his progeny excelled in every equestrian discipline.

Shortly after the arrival of the first Quarter Horses, the Hordern family founded Yulgilbar Quarter Horse Stud, the name derived from “Yulgilbar Station”, their heritage-listed family property on the Clarence River near Grafton, NSW. The emphasis, on the breeding, was placed on an ability to produce performance horses with the strength and capability of handling the stock work on “Yulgilbar Station”.

GOLD TOP R1-47, by MESCAL, was the first Quarter Horse cross to arrive at the station in 1958. In 1965, the Stud added another colt, OSCAR R2-15 by TEJANO CHICO Q-2. Mares were also sent to other top imported sires to obtain outcrosses.

The Next Generation

Samuel Hordern Snr. married June Baillieu and they raised two children, Sarah and Sam Jnr. Sarah inherited her father’s passion for the cattle and this was combined with her love of horses. In 1955 she married Baillieu Myer and raised three children, Sidney, Rupert and Samantha. Sidney Myer still enjoys competing on the cutting horses bred by Yulgilbar Quarter Horse Stud. Sarah and Baillieu played important roles in the early years of the AQHA, serving on the first council in 1964 until 1968 when Baillieu was elected President (1968-1971).



Sam Hordern Jnr. became heavily involved with the Quarter Horse industry. He was one of the original founders of the AQHA, was Deputy President for several years and then President in 1974. Sam and his wife, June, were also involved in the formation of the County of Cumberland Quarter Horse Association with Sam being the foundation President.



Family Commitment

Samuel Hordern Snr. was tragically killed in a car accident in 1960. King Ranch purchased Retford Park Estate and the family's horses were relocated. Some went to "Yulgilbar Station" while others, including MESCAL, were sent to "Cinnabar Station" (adjoining "Yulgilbar Station" and owned by Sam Hordern Jnr.). Sam later sold that property and moved his breeding operation to Scone.

When the King Ranch sire, JACKAROO Q-34, became the first American Quarter Horse to be auctioned in Australia at the annual King Ranch sale in 1961, he was purchased by the partnership of Sam Hordern Jnr. and Jack Reilly. Under the guidance of Jack Reilly, Sam Hordern Jnr. continued to import top quality stallions.

The Quarter Horse was spreading across the nation, mainly through early King Ranch and Hordern stud sales.

After the death of her father, Sarah and Baillieu Myer took over the ownership and management of "Yulgilbar Station" and the Quarter Horse stud. In 1963, Sarah imported the first purebred Quarter Horse mares. Then in 1969 Baillieu Myer and Sam Hordern Jnr. imported a colt named CHICKERAMIC Q-337, a grandson of the immortal THREE BARS (TB). CHICKERAMIC'S progeny were extremely versatile excelling in every field of competition.

Over the years, Yulgilbar Stud utilised several other imported sires. In 1994 the imported PLAYBOY ROY Q-31044, a grandson of the legendary FRECKLES PLAYBOY USA-0911588, became the flagship for Yulgilbar until his passing in 2011. He was awarded the NCHA's Leading Sire of Open Futurity Winners in 2001 and Leading Sire in 2006.

The AQHA have recognised Yulgilbar Quarter Horse Stud's contribution to the breed by induction into its Hall of Fame in 2007.
