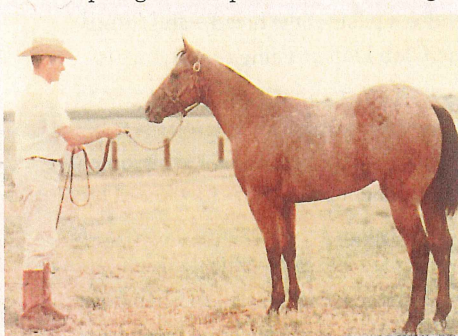


# Joker's Sleepy

APHC Hall of Fame

Texas horseman O.B. Haley had anticipated a good foal when he bred ID mare Strange Lady to his good friend Carl Miles' stallion Joker B. in 1959. But what Haley got wasn't just a good foal – it was a great foal. On June 7, 1960, Joker's Sleepy—"Sleepy" to his family"—was born on Haley's Abilene ranch. The colt was handsome, calm, and correct, and Haley felt so strongly about Sleepy's potential that he wasn't discouraged by the fact that Sleepy was born solid. Sure enough, Haley's instincts and patience paid off, and by the time Sleepy shed his winter hair in 1962, his deep red coat had sprung brown spots amidst a dusting of roan.



Sleepy didn't have the loud, attention-grabbing coat pattern of his sire, but the Appaloosa spots he did possess combined with his outstanding conformation was enough to convince Haley that the colt belonged in the

show ring. From 1962 to 1965, Joker's Sleepy became a staple of the Texas Appaloosa show scene, winning ribbons in myriad halter classes and often competing against—and beating—some of the top Appaloosa halter horses of the era. Sleepy won no less than ten grand champion titles during his halter career, including a Grand Champion stallion title at the 1963 San Antonio Stock Show. Sleepy also exercised his Appaloosa versatility by winning classes in western pleasure, reining, and roping—and even found time to win a few local races. Outside of the show pen, Sleepy was used on his owner's ranch to help round up goats and sheep.

Soon Sleepy's foals were on the rise as well. Among some of Sleepy's most prominent get were stallions Herndon's Pok-A-Son,

Sleepy's Joker Moon, and Sleepy's Upset—all show winners that later became World and National Champion producers—and Nifty Man, named World Champion Aged Gelding in 1975. Joker's Sleepy's success found the stallion fans throughout the region, and Haley's friend Carl Miles took great pleasure in Sleepy's triumphs. Says O.B. Haley's son O.B. "Bobby" Haley, Jr.: "Carl was very aware (of Sleepy's accomplishments). Like my dad, he was very proud of this colt. He even thought it was great when Sleepy started winning Get of Sire in place of Joker B.!" Sleepy's get helped him obtain a number of Get of Sire titles, including a reserve champion Get of Sire win at the 1968 National Show.

Joker's Sleepy also sired ten race starters, including three winners with mares Sleepy's Dream, Sleepy's Missy, and Sleepy's Queen. Missy and Queen each refused to let running against the boys intimidate them, and found their way into the winner's circle while leaving prominent race colts like Cricket Bars, Domleo Bar, Stay-Ready, and Top Scat in the dust. Sleepy's Dream found herself besting future ApHC Racing Hall of Fame mare My Host Bright at the track before becoming a highly successful halter horse, a career that included a Reserve National Champion mare title in 1970. As was typical of Sleepy's foals, his race-winning get were fierce competitors that still maintained a kind, gentle demeanor with their owners, trainers, and handlers. Bobby Haley recalls: "At the time I sold Sleepy's Queen to J.E. Baker, I walked on crutches. I was in Albuquerque, New Mexico for the State Fair race, walking her to the wash barn. Other horses were going every which way, and she just walked along beside me."

Sadly, the Appaloosa world lost Joker's Sleepy to colic on April 19 1969, but despite his brief life and small number of ApHC-registered foals, he managed to have a distinct impact on the Appaloosa world. Today, descendants of Joker's Sleepy can be found nationwide and in Europe competing in open, non-pro, and youth classes at the local, regional, and national level, ensuring that Sleepy's influence on the Appaloosa world will continue for years to come.