

## **GRANITE GIRL** RACING HALL OF FAME

**FOALED MARCH 7, 1976**, Granite Girl raced for four seasons, from 1978-1981. With five starts her first season running only on Oregon tracks, early successes suggested she might be pretty fast and was ready for a bigger, more competitive stage. Over the subsequent two years in California she became a record-setting Appaloosa racehorse that legendary trainer Don Collins once described as the best racing mare he'd ever watched on California tracks. Collins had a long association with Appaloosa racing, and although he never trained Granite Girl, he watched as some of the best in his stable became her victims.

The ApHC Racing Department produced a study in mid-1982 that begins to tell Granite Girl's story. The study involved a listing of the first Appaloosas with \$50,000 or more pari-mutuel earnings from the start of such events in 1962 through early 1982. This list, naming 17 horses, reads like a who's who in Appaloosa racing. Granite Girl ranked sixth on that list, with lifetime earnings of \$77,501 during a time when the average purse fluctuated between \$2,300 and \$2,900, and only behind more widely known legends: Easy We Go, Undercover Willie, Time Flies, We Go Easy, and Bettabound Splash. She was the highest ranked mare over roughly the first 20 years of Appaloosa racing, excepting only Gene Mile's famous mare We Go Easy.

Granite Girl's biography includes 44 Starts, 23 Wins, 10 Place, 6 Show; three World and nine Track Records at distances from 600 yards to 6 Furlongs in three different states against the toughest competition, with Speed Ratings over



100. She earned multiple Bronze Medallions; multiple Champion Running Awards, multiple Top Racing Appaloosa Awards and a Superior Achievement Award. She was bred by Mel Stoltenberg, Silverton, Oregon, (Red Granite (JC) x Pepper Red Cat) bought as a yearling and raced by Don Heil Sr., Roseburg, Oregon, and sold to Bill Blackmon (Texas) in 1983, in foal to Apache Double.

Back in 1978, those early races suggested she might have some speed. It turned out she had history-making speed and her records have stood the test of time, propelling her deservedly into the ApHC Racing Hall of Fame. 🐾