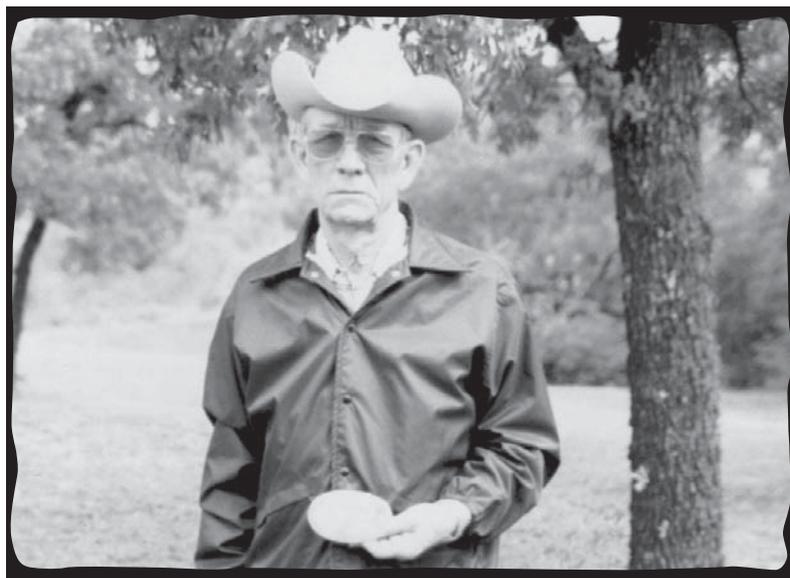


Appaloosa Racing Hall of Fame



Behind a great racehorse, there's a great trainer. So it was for many of the Appaloosa racehorses in Appaloosa racing's hey day, a time of big purses and prestigious races. During the 1960s, '70s and early '80s, Gilbert "Buck" Keck was one such trainer.

Buck had horses in all the major stakes races that were an important part of Appaloosa racing: the World Wide Futurity and Derby, Cricket Bars Futurity and Derby, Oklahoma Derby, Texas Futurity and Derby and Kansas Sunflower Classic Futurity. And he had several winners.

Buck was a man whose racecourse methods didn't hold to tradition; nonetheless, those methods served him well. On race days, his horses remained in the stalls to keep them calm; Buck liked them to get excited only once in a day, and that was for the race.

An article from the March 1978 *Appaloosa News* quotes Buck saying, "I'll let 'em out in the sun for a while and let 'em mill around in a back area. I sure don't want them to get to seeing other horses jumping around and get excited."

He was a man who showed up late at the track, according to track standards. He'd arrive around 7 a.m., when many others would be there by 4 a.m.

Buck got his start in Quarter Horse racing, and his racing buddies ribbed him when he switched to Appaloosas; but he was happy with the result.

"Yeah, this Appaloosa racing is really taking off... We even had trouble getting good jockeys. When a jockey would agree to ride in an Appaloosa race, the others would give him a hard time about it. Now the jockeys and their agents are coming around here hustling rides," Buck said in the article.

He trained Top Scat, a 1964 stallion who earned \$12,093.23 in his four years on the track—good money during that era. The horse won several races, including the Oklahoma Derby and Oklahoma Maturity; he placed in the Texas Futurity and World Wide Derby, and was inducted into the ApHC Hall of Fame in 1988.

In his barn was Tubelo B, a 1970 mare who won the 1972 Oklahoma Futurity and earned \$19,395.44; Zepana

2008 Inductees Voted by ApHC Executive Race Committee

Each year one horse and one individual are inducted into the ApHC Racing Hall of Fame by nominations received from members and voted on by the ApHC Executive Race Committee.

Gilbert Keck

Bull, a 1972 stallion who won the 1974 World Wide Futurity and \$19,913.20 in his one year on the track; 1989 Hall of Fame inductee Bull Nunneley, a 1975 stallion who placed in the Kansas Sunflower Classic Futurity (behind Stayready Bull) and World Wide Futurity and earned \$36,345.92 in one year; and Stayready Bull, another 1975 stallion who won the Texas Futurity and the Kansas Sunflower Classic Futurity with \$46,703.11 earned in three years.

Buck was one of few to have trained two World Wide Futurity winners, Zepana Bull and the 1978 mare Spotted Sacajawea, who won in 1980 and earned an astonishing \$75,862.02 in her one year on the track.

Buck was an early member of the Texas Appaloosa Racing Association and never had to scrap for jockeys, using his nephew Joe Tom Hancock as his primary rider. He liked to stay with his horses and had everything ready for race days the day before, so that the shed was quiet and calm.

He passed away in September 1984 while on his way to Blue Ribbon Downs in Sallisaw, Oklahoma.