



## Paul Gilbert

Paul Gilbert didn't start out in the horse business. Born in 1936, he was raised in New Britain, Connecticut, and was a practicing barber until he moved west in 1960.

It was then he got a job with Armand Potvin, a racing trainer who taught Paul the ropes. Paul worked in every area, from mucking stalls to walking hot horses. He started as a career jockey about a year after his mentor died, and enjoyed success with other breeds before riding an Appaloosa.

He rode his first Appaloosa in 1967 at Portland Meadows; the mare was multiple stakes winner Madame Chic. Within two years, Paul was fifth leading jockey. As he continued his career with Appaloosas, he rode for Joe King in Oregon, Washington and California.

Paul was second leading jockey in 1970, 1971 and 1973. In 1974 he was the leading jockey with most wins for the ApHC. He rode 13 different horses to 17 victories that year, including medallion winners Go Suddenly, High Duke, Mr. Parrot, Ocala Might and Paymaster D. Other notable victories were aboard Wild Tequila and Joe King's champion runner E/H Bob Check.

The following year he received the same honor, earning 27 wins aboard Appaloosas. In 1976 he semi-retired from riding to take the position of assistant racing secretary for the Coeur D'Alene Turf Club in Idaho.

He piloted Hall of Fame inductee Mr. Parrot to wins in California and was the leading California Fair Circuit jockey nine out of 11 years. He was seriously injured, paralyzed and blinded in a riding accident in 1977.

Paul rode stakes winners for Martin Abrahamson, Wild Hope Farms, Carrol Shelby and English Hills. He died in August 1983.

