

The John Bowling Legacy

John Bowling was born April 20, 1912 in Maquoketa, Iowa. He was the third son in an Iowa farm family and grew up during the depression.

He began trading livestock and farm produce with his brothers at the age of 12. It was not unusual for them to trade more than 250 head a year and the livestock was shipped primarily by rail. John usually road in the boxcars with them. The profits from the sales were used to buy land in and around Sumner, IA. That was the beginning of Bowling Land and Cattle.

In 1946 the brothers purchased a stockyard in Sycamore, Illinois and John moved there to manage it. John managed a cattle yard and sold horses as a sideline. There he helped produce the first Quarter Horse show in Springfield, Illinois and was also instrumental in persuading the Chicago International Stock Show to include the American Quarter Horse in their program. Later, two of the first quarter horses he owned, Hanna Jo and Bill Hancock stood grand champion there the same year.

In 1957, John and his family moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado. There he leased acreage where he kept up to 500 broodmares. His mares came from such noted ranches as the famed 6666 and Triangle Ranches in Texas and he was particularly fond of the daughters of Grey Badger III. His broodmare band included such great mares as Triangle Tookie, dam of the legendary Two Eyed Jack and Sugar Badger, dam of Leading Cutting horse sire Peppy San Badger.

Figure 1 In 1965 John moved his family and horses back to Sumner, Iowa. He always had a soft spot in his heart for gray horses, and his Iowa farm soon became known as the “Gray Horse Capital of America.” John crossed his working bred mares on several different stallions to produce those good gray horses.

His stallion battery included Maybe 64. He was especially proud of the fact that he and his family campaigned “Maybe” to earn his AQHA Championship and achieved their goal in 88 days.

Vivian Smith from Dickens, Iowa (also in the Iowa Hall of Fame) , showed two of his daughters; 64's *Blue Ann* earning 227 performance points and Superiors in Western Riding, Western Pleasure, and Hunter Under Saddle. She also placed 3rd in Western Riding at the AQHA World Show. Vivian also showed 64's *Blue Tiffany*, earner of 183

points with Superiors in Western Pleasure and Western Riding, She placed 4th at the AQHA World Show in Pleasure Driving.

“Maybe” also sired *Roxanna 64*, Superior Halter, Open and Youth.

Another good gray stallion he used in his program was Lasso. His get included *Mother of Pearl*, Superior Halter ROM earner.

Mini Lass 11, Earner of 56 Performance points.

Bonnie Badger 86, ROM earner and many more ROM Halter and Performance point earners. Other great stallions owned by John included Easter King, Buck Hancock and John Berry. John’s name appeared on several AQHA Leading Breeders lists throughout the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s.

Easter King was a 1951 sorrel stallion by King and out of Gocha H. In 1953 LaRue Gooch, from Simla, Colorado purchased Easter King and sent him to Elmo Favor to train.

It was reported that Easter King at the tender age of 18 months, won the Junior Cutting at both the Fort Worth and Houston stock shows. John first heard of Easter King through Jack Brainerd. Jack learned of this top son of King and a set of Hollywood Gold mares during a visit with Monte Foreman. The next evening he was visiting with John in Colorado Springs and told him about them. As a result John bought Easter King and 12 Hollywood Gold mares in foal. This was the beginning of the *Easter Effect*.

Easter King sired 49 Point Earners, 15 Superior Award earners, winners of 5 World and Reserve World Championships, and earners of 28 ROM’s. They earned a total of 2,684 points. His first generation offspring have produced NRHA, NRCHA, and NCHA earners of \$20,595,985. His name appeared on the AQHA Leading Sire, Grandsire, and Maternal Grandsire lists for several years get including Merry King, the dam of Dun Commander.

While in John’s breeding program, his get included such great horses as Hollywood Jac 86, NRHA’s first million dollar sire. He is also an NRHA two time Non Pro World Champion and an NRHA Hall of Fame inductee.

“Jac’s” get include NRHA three million dollar sire and AQHA Hall of Fame inductee Hollywood Dun It. The dam of Hollywood Dun It is by Dun Berry, a horse that John raised.

Easter Gentleman, a Bowling herd sire for several years, went on to become an influential

reining horse sire of the earners of over \$300,000.

His get include *Silver Anniversary*, 1990 NRHA Open Futurity Winner.

Easter King also sired

5 P Hancock, Superior Halter earning 102 points along with points in reining, western pleasure, and barrels. “Chesty” was Easter King’s leading halter point earner. She was inducted into the Wisconsin Quarter Horse Hall of Fame in 2008.

Ezee Money 37, Superior Halter earning 80 points, Superior Western Pleasure, earner of 228 points in Western Pleasure, Western Riding, and Trail.

Mr Hollywood Red, earner of 794 points, 4 Reserve World Championships in Hunter Under Saddle classes, 6 Superior Awards in Hunter Under Saddle, Western Pleasure, and Western Horsemanship. Also placed 4th at the AQHA world show in Open Hunter Under Saddle and Amateur Western Pleasure.

King’s Snoopy, earner of 490 points, AQHYA World Champion Western Pleasure. Superior Open and Youth Western Pleasure.

O’Shay King 66, earner of 227 points, Superior Western Pleasure.

And many many more

In 1975 John moved to Missouri. There he married Cindy in 1976. The couple purchased a farm in Sedalia, Missouri. From there, they sold from 80 to 100 horses annually to almost every state in the nation, Canada and Mexico.

The couple formed Triangle Sales Company in 1979, the leading performance horse sale in the nation today. The first year in operation, they conducted sales in Missouri, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

The first Triangle horse sale in Oklahoma was held at the state fairgrounds in Oklahoma City, in 1980. In the Spring of 1981 the Bowling’s dispersed the majority of their horses to enable them to devote their time and resources to Triangle.

In January of 1983 the first Winter Sale was held in Shawnee at the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center, an all heated facility under one roof. It was a pretty big gamble as

winter sales in those days were basically unheard of.

The sale proved to be a huge success prompting John and Cindy to move to Shawnee the same year. From then on, all Triangle Sales were conducted at the Shawnee Expo Center.

John passed away January 12, 1994. Cindy continued to manage the sale through 2014. The company was then sold to Jim and Carolyn Ware. Triangle continues to operate successfully under their guidance.