

WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP HORSE SHOW HALL OF FAME

Charles D. Smith

Editor's note: The following speech was read by announcer Peter Doubleday Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 at the World's Championship Horse Show.



Charles D. Smith was joined by family, friends and some of the people whose careers he helped influence at his induction ceremony in Freedom Hall.

Charles D. Smith first gained national recognition during his 13 years as manager/trainer of Randolph Farm in Clearwater, Florida. While at Randolph's, he brought out such show ring stars as WC Glen Raven (1961 Juvenile Five-Gaited Gelding), WC Party Doll (1958 Three-Gaited Pony-Rider 13-18), WC Denmark's Coquette (1961 Three-Gaited Juvenile) and WC King Creole (1959 Three-Gaited Juvenile), to name just a few. He also had the stallions Secret Society and Secret Selection under his direction.

In 1966, Charlie became the manager/trainer of Tri-Oaks Stables in Houston, Texas. Training horses for the Lyons family Charlie put together the successful teams of their daughter Melissa with WC CH The New Look and daughter Dana with WC Our Anne Marie. Other successful campaigners under Charlie's direction in Houston included Last Revenge, Flaming Decision, James L., Miss Lori, and Dianna's Decision.

Following the dispersal of Tri-Oaks, Charlie became manager/trainer of the Rock Creek Riding Club in Louisville, Kentucky in 1972. He trained the champions Far Cry and Cedar Creek Mr. Go, as well as the Hackney pony WC Fury's blossom and the WC roadster Dizzy Blonde.

In 1975 Charlie built a new training facility on 158 acres in Simpsonville, Kentucky. At his Charles D. Smith Farm he guided the careers of world's champions CH Elation, CH 20th Century Fox, CH Cedar Creek Farewell, Patricia Murphy, CH

Rhythm 'N Jazz, CH Spencer County, CH The Phoenix, and the roadster Bomb's Echo, and many more.

Charlie was known for teaming juvenile and amateur riders with the ideal horse. He was instrumental in the show ring success of Pat and Cathy Clark, John Wrather, Kaye Bowles-Durnell, Susan Swope, Heather Stumler, Celeste Burns, Carolyn Garrett, Camille Whitfield, Georgia Herpin Baker, Kim Skipton and many others, many of whom are still active in the business today.

A man of many talents Charlie trained multiple world's champions in the Saddlebred, Hackney, and Roadster divisions. Though he concentrated mainly on putting amateurs and juveniles in the show ring he did show himself winning world's champion titles in many divisions including two-year-old and three-year-old fine harness and both the three-gaited and five-gaited county fair classes. He showed the WC CH The Phoenix to the Five-Gaited Reserve World's Grand Championship title.

He enjoyed the breeding end of the business and stood the world's champion sire WC CH Sensational Spirit. He was instrumental in advancing the breeding program of W. Clyde McCoy with the stallions Sultan's Contract and High Rise Spirit. Charlie bred WC Hollywood Glitter, WC Raging Storm, RWC Born Leader, etc. He ran a large sales operation, and he personally owned and sold WC CH Well Chosen, WC

Mac's Danish Harmony, WC CH Twilight Mist V.F., WC CH Sensational Spirit, WC CH Apple Cider, etc. With his partner Jim Skipton, he founded S & S Venture Farm, which owned and sold WC CH Oak Hill's Desert Rose, WC Commander's Wings, WC Only Forever, WC Magic Supreme, and more.

Not only was Charles D. Smith a successful trainer, but he also gave back to the industry aiding in the founding of the UPHA and serving both on the board and as the president of that organization.

He played a role in the careers of Don Bridges, Johnny Lucas, Kris Knight, Hoppy Bennett, Janet Blagden Barber, April Dunaway, Kathy Capsuto-Walker, George Schmid and many others.

One of his protégés, Gary Garone, not only became a top trainer but followed Charlie's lead to become the president of the UPHA. Charlie retired from training in the mid-1990s to spend more time with his late wife Peggy and their four grown children, Suzanne, Pam, Johan and Jack.

In 2012, he was inducted into the Rock Creek Horse Show Hall of Fame. For his contributions to the breed and industry on so many levels it is only fitting that Charles D. Smith be inducted into the Kentucky State Fair World's Championship Horse Show Hall of Fame.