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Quarter Horses come to
REMINGTON PARK



Guy Ray Rutland

"Those horses sure do ruin a good cow man."

Those were the words of Guy Ray Rutland's father once it became clear which direction his son would take. Back in the '40s, Guy Ray saw that he could make a little money turning horses, so raising and selling them became his life's work and his life's love. He told his dad that he would rather have one good mare than ten cows.

The result was that Guy Ray and Mildred Rutland of Independence, Kansas are listed as the breeders of more than 500 Register of Merit runners since 1945. No other breeder has produced even 400 in that span of time.

Despite his success at it, Rutland did not breed strictly for speed, and his stock gained recognition in other arenas, too. He was a stickler for conformation.

"I'd rather have a good-looking AA horse than a sorry looking AAA horse," he once said. "I lean toward racing, and I've tried to get as good-looking an animal with as much breeding and quality blood as I can."

That led him to breed his mares to a succession of stallions that included Gold King Bailey, Gold Pacific, King Leo Bailey, Carrara Marble TB, Star Bright

Moore, Jet Stop, Bar Money and Pacific Bailey.

Rutland maintained a broodmare band that sometimes approached 400 in number, and he claimed that he knew each one by name and pedigree. To keep the population down to a manageable size, he offered his weanlings in an annual production sale that he started in 1967.

"Most of my customers are poor folks like myself," Rutland said. "They are looking for a bargain — they want to buy one as good as the best for a lot less.

"My customers are what helped me to become a leading breeder — it was not me, personally."

Rutland's affection for horses was obvious, and it enabled him to turn rogues into pussycats.

"I think that a lot of horses are smarter than the people that handle them," he said. "They need tender, loving care. If they misbehave, well, then, correct them, but use common sense. Most bad habits in horses are man-made. Tender, loving care and common sense is all that it takes."

The Quarter Horse world lost one of its most successful breeders when Guy Ray Rutland died from cancer on August 30 at the age of 71. ■