

# Fair Grounds Hall of Fame Biographies & Marie G. Krantz Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

[Bios current as of Class of 2014 Induction Ceremony, March 12, 2014.]

## **A Letter to Harry Bay Gelding 1974**

### **Hurry to Market-Hidden Letter**

Bred by Mr. and Mrs. William Baldwin, owned by Raymond F. Salmen and Estate, and trained by John Oxley.

Unraced as a 2-year-old, A Letter to Harry won 15 of 26 races at ages 3 and 4 on his way to becoming one of the Fair Grounds' most popular handicap performers. In 1978, "Harry" won six stakes, including the Michigan Mile. In 1979, he won the Fair Grounds Classic and New Orleans Handicap before placing in the Oaklawn Handicap. The following year, he returned home to claim the 37th running of the Louisiana Handicap with Randy Romero aboard. A Letter to Harry's career totals were 34 starts with 19 wins, five seconds and five thirds, and total earnings of \$513,546.

## **Frank "Buddy" Abadie 1921-2002**

New Orleans native Buddy Abadie spent the majority of his life devoted to horse racing. After spending time around circuits outside Louisiana, he returned home in 1968 and became director of the fledgling Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association. His charges involved creating record systems, establishing a summer office in Lafayette, forming a trade publication and fighting legislative battles. "Sixty Rayburn and Jack Lohman were huge helps, of course," Abadie told Louisiana Horse in 1997, "but every piece of legislation there was, between 1969 and 1982, I either thought it up, or went to Baton Rouge to defend it." Abadie spent 17 years with the LTBA as secretary-treasurer, then went on to a career as state steward from 1985-95. "I've seen racing from all sides," Abadie said. "I've been one of the blessed people."

## **Robby Albarado 1973-**

Born in Lafayette, LA., the popular and modest Louisiana native learned his trade on the bush tracks in Abbeville, riding match races at the age of 12. He rode his first official winner in 1990. Since 1998, Albarado has dominated the rider standings at Fair Grounds with five riding titles. A sixth riding in 2005 would match the most in modern track history. He is one of three riders to win 1,000 races at Fair Grounds and holds several track records for jockeys, including stakes wins in a season and money earned in a season (\$3,479,410 in 1998-99). On March 11, 2004, he tied a Fair Grounds record with six winners on a single card. He was the regular rider for Horse of the Year Mineshaft in 2003. In February 2004, Albarado won the George Woolf Memorial Award. His major stakes wins at Fair Grounds include the 1999 Louisiana Derby with Kimberlite Pipe, the 2003 New Orleans Handicap with Mineshaft and three wins in the Mervin Muniz Memorial Handicap (Joyeaux Danseur, 1998; Tijjyr, 2001; Mystery Giver, 2004). His list of riding titles includes five at Fair Grounds, two at Oaklawn, two at Keeneland and one at Arlington Park. He won his first Grade I race in the Three Chimneys Spinster at Keeneland in 1998.

## **Thomas Amoss 1961-**

New Orleans native Tom Amoss had the desire to train horses at an early age and solidified himself as the trainer of the 1990s at Fair Grounds. "The barn that I'm training in right now is the barn I held my first job in when I was 15 years old," Amoss said. Amoss began learning about horses as a veterinarian's assistant in 1984 and later served apprenticeships under trainers Frank Brothers, John Parisella and Larry Robideaux. "I was a veterinarian's assistant for Gary Norwood and in the spring of 1988, I went out on my own." He's trained such stakes winners as Fly Cry, Sky Blue Pink, Marastani, Lakeshore Road, Magnify, Playcaller, Some Actor, No Name Dancer, Timeless Honor, Blissful Union, Royal Rebuke, Genuine Meaning, Alta's Princess, Hawaiian Dancer, Cornish Brush, Double Affair, Sarasota and Mucho Magesterial for various owners, and that's the main reason why Amoss says he's done so well. "I had a lot of support along the way as I worked my way up to trainer," he said. "In particular, my wife at the time, she was there for me. Good clients support me by buying good horses and allowing me to run them in the spots I think are appropriate. A staff underneath me and luck has played a part in my success. The old adage is 'Surround yourself with the best people possible,' so my staff is important." Amoss, who has been Fair Grounds' leading trainer eight times, has saddled more than 1,000 winners in his career, including the New Orleans Handicap twice: Jarraar in 1992 and in 1990 with Festive. "Winning my first graded stake with Jarraar, particularly with a client that had supported me since the beginning of time, which is Richard Colton," he said, recalling one of his fondest memories. "Winning that kind of race and my father in particular, being there and congratulating me after he crossed the finish line. I think that was the moment that stands out." Amoss also won the 1996 trainer's title at Ellis Park and the 2002 spring meet training title at Churchill Downs. A graduate of Louisiana State University, Amoss earned a degree in marketing.

**Edward (Eddie) Arcaro**  
**1916-1997**

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Arcaro spent most of his early years across the Ohio River in Newport, Ky. In 1961, when Arcaro hung up his tack, he had earned more purse money than any other jockey in history. This in spite of the fact that he never considered himself a natural. "Anything I've done, I've learned about," he liked to say. Among his career accomplishments as a jockey were 549 stakes wins, including the Kentucky Derby five times and the Preakness and Belmont each six times. It is a record of success in the Triple Crown races that remains unequaled. Among the great horses he rode were Citation, Kelso, Bold Ruler, Whirlaway and Assault. In the 1930s Arcaro was a regular rider at the Fair Grounds, including a stint as a stable rider for Clarence Davidson. His biggest win here was aboard Greentree Stable's Day Off in the 1939 Louisiana Derby. He is a member of the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

**Ronald Ardoin**  
**1957-**

Excellence, both on and off the race track, has guided Ronald Ardoin's long and successful career as a jockey. Ever since winning his first career race aboard Miss Complabid in December 1973 at Delta Downs, he's been an inspiration for young riders from deep in south Louisiana's Cajun country, not only for his immense riding ability but also for his generosity toward fans, horsemen and fellow riders. Ardoin, a native of Carencro, La., started riding at Delta Downs in the fall of 1973. He won his first race at Delta Downs before moving to the Fair Grounds as an apprentice during the 1973-74 season. He's been here ever since. The popular jockey has won six Fair Grounds riding titles, including four straight from 1992-96. His best season was with 137 wins during the 1993-94 meeting, when he also established a Fair Grounds record with 12 stakes victories. Perhaps his biggest stakes win at the Fair Grounds was the 1980 New Orleans Handicap aboard Pool Court. "When I started riding, I thought it was just for enjoyment and fun. I never thought I'd make a career of it and it's wound up being a great career. I thank God every day for giving me a chance to do what I do," he said after winning his 4,000th race. "It's just been a fantastic career that I would like to keep going because I love what I do. I love getting up in the morning and being out with the people and the horses."

**Steve Asmussen**  
**1965-**

Steve Asmussen is the second-leading trainer all-time at Fair Grounds (behind Jack Van Berg) with more than 750 wins in 16 seasons (through March 2011), representing about 13% of the trainer's more than 5,700 overall career wins (fifth all-time). He is tied with Van Berg for most Fair Grounds training titles with 10. His major Fair Grounds stakes triumphs include two Louisiana Derby wins (Fifty Stars in 2001 and Pyro in 2008) and two Fair Grounds Oaks wins (Lady Tak in 2003 and Summerly in 2005). In 2009, Asmussen broke his own record for wins in a calendar year, finishing with 650. His charges won three consecutive Horse of the Year awards – Curlin in 2007 and 2008 and Rachel Alexandra in 2009. He won the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Trainer in 2008 and 2009 and was the top U.S. trainer by wins in 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010, and by earnings in 2008 and 2009.

**Robert Lee (R.L.) Baird**  
**1929-2005**

Born in New Waverly, Texas, Baird came under the tutelage of trainer Jimmy Jones at age 17 and began a riding career that spanned six decades. Famed for his toughness and durability, Baird took time out to become a decorated infantryman in World War II, then resumed his riding career until age 62. Known as a peerless gate rider, Baird twice won the Fair Grounds riding title, in 1955-56 with 112 winners and 1963-64 with a record-setting 123 winners. He won the Louisiana Derby twice, in 1956 aboard Reaping Right and then in 1963 with City Line. Baird also won both the Thanksgiving and Sugar Bowl Handicaps twice. During a 39-year career, Baird had nearly 25,000 mounts and more than 3,700 wins.

**Bobby Barnett**  
**1949-**

Born in Pampa, Texas, Bobby Barnett made his first mark in the racing industry as a Quarter Horse jockey. Since he posted his first career victory as a Thoroughbred trainer in 1985, he has continually climbed the ladder as one of the most respected trainers in the nation. His career record includes three training titles at Louisiana Downs and Oaklawn Park and titles in the fall of 1998 and 1999 at Churchill Downs. The 1998 season was perhaps Barnett's greatest, featuring a pair of Grade I wins -- Precocity in the Oaklawn Handicap and Answer Lively, the eventual Eclipse Award winner as top 2-year-old colt or gelding, in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. His biggest Fair Grounds victory came in March 1999 when Precocity captured the Grade III New Orleans Handicap over 1998 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Real Quiet. Barnett led all Fair Grounds trainers with six stakes wins in 1994-95, and in 1998-99, he led Fair Grounds trainers in earnings with more than \$1.2 million. Barnett posted his 1,000th career victory in the summer of 1999 at Louisiana Downs.

**Angel Barrera**  
**1913-1996**

Angel Barrera's training career spanned more than 50 years. His late brother, trainer Laz Barrera, often referred to him as the finest horseman amidst a family of conditioners, "All the brothers train," Laz said, "but Angel trained all the brothers." In the

winter of 1986, Laz entrusted the promising filly Tiffany Lass to Angel's care at Fair Grounds. The result was a trio of wins, two of them in stakes, topped off by a victory in the Fair Grounds Oaks. Tiffany Lass went on to an undefeated season, with additional triumphs in the Fantasy Stakes and Kentucky Oaks. She was North America's champion 3-year-old distaffer that season. "A horseman's horseman" is the proudest designation a trainer can have, and no better example exists than Angel Barrera.

## **W. Hal Bishop**

**1900-1981**

Born in Harrisburg, Ill., the colorful rough-hewn Bishop was one of the nation's biggest horse and mule traders. He began training Thoroughbreds in 1944 and in the next 32 years became the top claiming owner-trainer in the history of American racing. He twice led the nation's trainers in winners and was runner-up on six other occasions. He was the nation's winningest owner seven times. For most of his career Bishop wintered at the Fair Grounds. It is estimated by some observers that he sold or traded over a million horses and mules in his lifetime and often said, "A horse sold is a horse well sold." Though best known for his claiming horses, he also trained such stakes winners as Bernburgoo, Eladio, Pemberton, Yukon Jake, Eight Again and Speedy Jake. In his career, Bishop saddled 3,150 winners, earning more than \$10 million in purses.

## **Black Gold**

**Black Colt 1921**

**Black Toney-Useeit**

Bred and owned by Rosa Hoots, trained by Hanley Webb.

Black Gold, the winner of the most romanticized Kentucky Derby of all, was the subject of a movie and was one of the most popular horses ever to race at Fair Grounds. Black Gold's dam, Useeit, was banned from racing after owner Al Hoots refused a valid claim for her in Juarez. On his deathbed, Hoots made his wife promise to mate the ill-bred mare to a great stallion. Mrs. Hoots' story found a sympathetic ear with Col. E. R. Bradley, then owner of one of the top sires in America, Black Toney. The resultant foal won the 1924 runnings of the Louisiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Chicago Derbys, with New Orleanian J. D. Mooney as his rider. Black Gold ran the first and last races of his career at Fair Grounds. On Jan. 18, 1928, he broke down near the finish in the Salome Purse and finished the race on a broken leg. The next day he was buried in the Fair Grounds infield. Black Gold is a member of the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

## **Eric Wolfston Blind**

**1908-1993**

Born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Blind began his racing career as a contract rider for Col. E.R. Bradley's Idle Hour Stock Farm. In 1947 he began his career as a starter at Narragansett Park and over the years officiated at race tracks in Illinois, Ohio, Nebraska, Maine and Colorado. Blind began his Fair Grounds career as stall man in 1941 and over the years served as patrol judge, placing judge and steward. In 1956 he succeeded Ruby White as Fair Grounds starter and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1986. Eric is the father of Eric Francis and Edward Michael Blind, both of whom have worked as starters at major tracks around the country.

## **Blushing K. D.**

**Chestnut Filly 1994**

**Blushing John – Lilac Garden**

Bred by Foxfield Farm, owned by James and Sue Burns. Trained by Sam David Jr. In her brief, injury shortened career, Blushing K.D. became one of the most popular horses ever to race at Fair Grounds. In her 3-year-old season, Blushing K.D. won three stakes at Fair Grounds, including impressive victories in the Davona Dale and Fair Grounds Oaks. From there she went on to triumph in Oaklawn Park's Fantasy Stakes, then shipped to Churchill Downs and won the Grade I Kentucky Oaks. After that triumphant performance, Blushing K.D. suffered a shocking upset in her next start, the Black-Eyed Susan at Pimlico, when she reportedly had a bad reaction to Lasix. But she rebounded to win the Monmouth Oaks impressively and was preparing to take on the country's best males in the Grade I Haskell when she suffered a broken sesamoid in her left foreleg. Blushing K.D.'s career totals showed eight wins from 10 starts and earnings of \$918,900.

## **Col. Edward Riley Bradley**

**1859-1946**

An American success story, this son of immigrants left his home in a Pennsylvania steel mill town at age 14, and at the time of his death was master of the most famous American Thoroughbred breeding operation in history – Idle Hour Stock Farm, near Lexington, Ky. A gambler all his life, Bradley built and operated hotels and casinos throughout the country. In 1911 he acquired Idle Hour Farm and over the next 35 years bred 147 stakes winners, including Kentucky Derby winners Behave Yourself (1921), Bubbling Over (1926), Burgoo King (1932), and Brokers Tip (1933). One of the highlights of his local career was winning the 1926 Louisiana Derby with Bagenbaggage. Bagenbaggage was ridden by long-time Fair Grounds starter and Fair Grounds' Racing Hall of Fame member, Eric Blind. Bradley owned Fair Grounds from 1926-33 and directed many improvements, including the clubhouse, the previous grandstand's retractable windows and new barns. When Bradley died, The Blood-Horse magazine ended its tribute with these lines: "There was no duplicity in him. He was a gambler. He stood his ground."

**Frank Brothers****1947-**

Born in New Orleans, Brothers got his start as an assistant to trainer Jack Van Berg but quickly carved out a niche for himself and became Louisiana's all-time training leader. From 1978-88, Brothers won five Fair Grounds training titles and was runner-up five times. Equally adept with claiming and stakes horses, Brothers also won nine training titles at Louisiana Downs and is that track's all-time leader in stakes won. At Fair Grounds, Brothers conditioned such multiple stakes winners as Monique Rene, Bayou Black, Temerity Prince, Dr. Riddick, and Sastarda and won the 1985 New Orleans Handicap with Westheimer and the 1988 Fair Grounds Oaks with Quite a Gem. In 1991, Brothers became the private trainer for Joe Albritton of Houston and sent out Hansel to victory in that year's Preakness and Belmont Stakes. Hansel was named 1991's champion three-year-old. He became private trainer for Claiborne Farms in the mid-1990s.

**Raymond Broussard****1936-1993**

Born in Delcambre, La., Broussard won the first race of his career at Fair Grounds on Feb. 25, 1954, for the famed stable of Joe W. Brown. In his lengthy riding career, Broussard won many of the nation's major stakes, including the Wood Memorial, the Matchmaker Stakes, the Florida Derby, the Flamingo Stakes and the Sorority Stakes. His greatest successes were at Fair Grounds though, where he was the regular rider of such stalwarts at Tenacious, Clev Er Tell, Green Hornet, and Greek Star. In capturing numerous Fair Grounds riding titles, Broussard won the Louisiana Derby and the New Orleans Handicap four times each and the Louisiana Handicap and Lecomte three times each.

**Mrs. Joe W. (Dorothy) Brown****1896-1989**

One of the more prominent horse owners in Louisiana for more than 40 years, Mrs. Brown dedicated herself to continuing the high standards of the family stable her husband launched in the 1940s and maintained until his death in 1959. Over the years, horses wearing the Brown family colors – white with black stars and a black "B" – won the Louisiana Derby and the New Orleans Handicap six times each. Twice a Brown-owned entry ran 1-2 in the Louisiana Derby. Her roster of racing stars included such all-time Fair Grounds favorites as Tenacious, Cabildo, Green Hornet, List, Dapper Delegate, Kentucky Sherry, I Owe, El Baba, Dr. Brocato, and Listcapade. A noted philanthropist whose gifts to the city of New Orleans included Joe W. Brown Memorial Park, Mrs. Brown always epitomized class and modesty. "Don't take my picture," she always said after winning a big race. "It was the horse that won the race. Go take his picture."

**Cabildo****Bay Colt 1963****Round Table-Delta**

Few handicap horses ever raced with as much heart as Cabildo. During six seasons of competition, he made 75 starts and achieved 22 victories, came in second 16 times and third in 11 of his efforts, while amassing career earnings of \$267,265. A homebred representing Claiborne Farm as a two-year-old, Cabildo was subsequently purchased by C. E. Nicholls and then by Mrs. Joseph W. (Dorothy) Brown. It was Mrs. Brown and trainer Alcee Richard for whom Cabildo achieved his greatest triumphs. Cabildo's career record at Fair Grounds included 30 starts and 12 victories, and he also came in second eight times and was third on five occasions. His earnings at Fair Grounds totaled \$135,060. Six of Cabildo's Fair Grounds efforts resulted in stakes victories. He won the 1967 New Orleans Handicap, along with renewals of the Black Gold, Christmas, Letellier Memorial, Pelleteri and Thanksgiving Handicaps. Cabildo placed in 11 other Fair Grounds stakes as well. Away from Fair Grounds, Cabildo continued to be a formidable competitor. He twice won the Louisville Handicap at Churchill Downs, and was a 2 1/2-length winner of the 1968 Midwest Handicap at Hawthorne. Cabildo won at seven distances, ranging from six furlongs to 1 1/8 miles. He was a winner at Fair Grounds every year from 1966-70 inclusive.

**W. Bret Calhoun****1964-**

W. Bret Calhoun began training in 1993 and won his first race in 1994. He saddled his 1000<sup>th</sup> winner in 2007 at Louisiana Downs. In 2007 he was ranked in the top 25 trainers by earnings and tied for sixth in wins. In 2010 he won a pair of Breeders' Cup World Championship races with Chamberlain Bridge and Dubai Majesty, who would win the Eclipse Award for Champion Female Sprinter.

**John Blanks Campbell****1876-1954**

His father was a river boat pilot in Black River, La., and he began visiting the Fair Grounds when rainy days interrupted work at his uncle's New Orleans cotton presses. Discovering a talent for handicapping, Campbell became Clerk of Scales at the old City Park race track in 1906. He later worked as a mutuel clerk, steward and racing secretary at the Fair Grounds during the Bradley era. Campbell also worked as an official at Churchill, Arlington, Hialeah, Laurel, Bowie, Pimlico, and Tropical Park. From 1934 until his death, Campbell was handicapper and racing secretary for the New York tracks. He developed the Experimental Free Handicap and became famous for his weighting of the 1944 Carter Handicap, the most famous three-way

dead heat in American Turf history. At the time of his death, he was the most honored racing official in America.

### **Chou Croute**

#### **Bay Filly 1968**

#### **Lt. Stevens – Witherite**

Bred by E.V. Benjamin III and W.G. Clark. Owned by a New Orleans-based group that included E.V. Benjamin III, J. Merick Jones, Isidore Newman and Larry Israel and trained by Bob G. Dunham. Chou Croute was named champion sprinter in 1972 after winning six stakes and placing in four others in distances ranging from six furlongs to 1 1/4 miles. She won the Beldame Stakes at Belmont Park going a mile and one eighth and wrapped up the sprint championship by winning the Fall Highweight at Belmont under 131 pounds and the Las Flores Handicap at Santa Anita going six furlongs. She broke her maiden at Fair Grounds and won all three career starts in New Orleans, including a win over crack sprinter Honey Jay. The Chou Croute Stakes for older fillies and mares has been run in her honor at Fair Grounds since 1978. Chou Croute's career totals were 28 starts with 18 wins, 2 seconds and 3 thirds for earnings of \$284,662.

### **John F. Clark Jr.**

#### **1899-1981**

Credited with writing the "Rules of Racing," Mr. Clark raced horses at Fair Grounds in the 1930s. Owner of a large stable, Clark raced primarily in the Midwest and New Orleans. His horse Clang set a track record at Fair Grounds for three furlongs in 1936, and the match races later that year between Clang and sprint champion Myrtlewood attracted national attention at Hawthorne. Myrtlewood edged Clang by a nose, but three weeks later Clang defeated the soon-to-be champion sprinter by the same margin, setting a world record for six furlongs of 1:09 2/5 at Coney Island Race Track near Cincinnati, Ohio. Clark was named to the first Louisiana State Racing Commission in 1940, and four years later he became a Louisiana steward. He remained in the stewards' stand at Fair Grounds for 25 years until his retirement in 1971.

### **Colonel Power**

#### **Bay Colt 1972**

#### **Diplomat Way-Overstreet**

Bred and owned by Harvey Peltier Sr., and trained by J. O. Meaux. This Louisiana-owned colt's 2-year old season included victories in the Arch Ward and Graustark Stakes and a second-place finish in the Arlington-Washington Futurity at Arlington Park in Chicago. In his 3-year-old season, Colonel Power won the Thanksgiving and Lecomte Handicaps and was a memorable second to arch rival Master Derby in both the Louisiana Derby Trial and the Louisiana Derby. Also in 1975, this speedy son of Fair Grounds favorite Diplomat Way, who is also a member of the Fair Grounds' Racing Hall of Fame, set the track record of 1:09 for six furlongs, a mark which stood for 15 years. Later that same year, Colonel Power won the Illinois Derby. In 1976, he returned to Fair Grounds to capture the Pelleteri Handicap. Colonel Power's career totals were 65 starts with 22 wins, 10 seconds and seven thirds for earnings of \$355,600.

### **Captain William Cottrill**

#### **?-1887**

Capt. William Cottrill was the leading owner at Fair Grounds from 1872 when the Louisiana Jockey Club began holding meetings to approximately 1880. A noted Southern turfman from Mobile, Ala., he also raced a stable at Saratoga after the Civil War for a number of years. The Alabama Stakes at Saratoga was named in his honor. Unlike most every other Southern horseman, Cottrill's prominence in New Orleans as well as Saratoga was largely due to the fact that his Alabama breeding operation was unscathed by Federal troops -- Mobile was not taken until the last week of the Civil War. Racing at the Magnolia Course near Mobile was only briefly disrupted and allowed him the opportunity to improve his Thoroughbreds as well as having the Lexington stallion Daniel Boone at the forefront of stallion roster in 1866. For the next 20 years, Cottrill was head and shoulders above many of the nation's horsemen. He was a founding member of the Louisiana Jockey Club and was a placing judge at Fair Grounds in 1885. The Cottrill Stakes at 1 1/2 miles was inaugurated in his honor at Fair Grounds in the spring of 1882. He died in 1887.

### **Dapper Delegate**

#### **Bay Colt 1962**

#### **Porterhouse-Monkeyaires**

Owned by Mrs. Joe W Brown's Stable, trained by Alcee Richard. Bay Colt by Porterhouse-Monkeyaires. Known as a juvenile all-star who could not handle the mud, Dapper Delegate spent much of his career compared to Doctor Brocato, another juvenile owned and trained by Mrs. Joe W. Brown and Alcee Richard. As a 3-year-old in 1965 he won the Lecomte by eight lengths and went on to win the Louisiana Derby that year. He attracted the attention of the Thoroughbred Racing Association, who sent a team down to film the Run for the Orchids, an honor reserved for the top horses in the country. One of the favorites for the Kentucky Derby in 1965, Dapper Delegate developed colic before the race and never made it to post. He died in New York of a respiratory ailment later that year.

**Pat Day****1953-**

Born in Brush, Colo., Day has become one of America's most honored riders. Day reached the pinnacle of success in 1991, being voted into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Among Day's achievements are four Eclipse Awards in an eight-year span and the 1985 George Woolf Award. Some of the champions he piloted to victory include Easy Goer, Lady's Secret, Dance Smartly, and Black Tie Affair. Perhaps Day is best known for his stunning victory aboard Wild Again in the first running of the Breeders' Cup Classic in 1984. Millions of viewers across America witnessed Day's appreciative look heavenward after the race. Early in his career, Day was a regular at the Fair Grounds and captured his first national riding title while riding here in 1982. Among his Fair Grounds highlights are multiple wins in the Thelma, the Chou Croute and Week of Fame Sprint Stakes, plus four Louisiana Derbys. He also won the New Orleans Handicap with Wild Again (1984) and Honor Medal (1988). In 1991, Day set a single year record for stakes with a tally of 60.

**Jack DeFee****1909-1991**

A four sport letterman at Sam Houston State College, DeFee devoted much of his life to the Thoroughbred industry in both serving horsemen and in improving the breed. He was a founder of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association and in his four-year stint as Chairman of the Louisiana State Racing Commission, led the drive for mandated funding of Louisiana-bred racing. A long-time owner and breeder, DeFee served as president of the national Horseman's Benevolent and Protective Association for eight years and headed the Louisiana division for 26 years.

**Eddie Delahoussaye****1951-**

Born in New Iberia, La., this popular and modest Louisiana native dominated the Fair Grounds riding colony in the 1970s and went on to become one of the nation's premier jockeys. In the five-year span from 1974-79, Delahoussaye won four Fair Grounds riding titles, setting records with 126 winners in the 1974-75 and 1975-76 seasons and 138 winners in 1977-78. During that time he also dominated the local stakes, winning the 1979 New Orleans Handicap with A Letter to Harry and the 1978 Louisiana Handicap with Prince Majestic. He won the Tenacious, Sugar Bowl and Mardi Gras Handicaps three times each. In 1980 Delahoussaye shifted his base to California and in the decade that followed, his patience and coolness under fire earned him mounts on Risen Star, Gato del Sol, Sunny's Halo, Codex, Track Robbery and The Bart to name a few. Delahoussaye won back-to-back Kentucky Derbys, a Preakness, and a Belmont, as well as such Grade I events as the Kentucky Oaks, Arkansas Derby, Santa Anita Derby and the Hollywood Derby and Hollywood Gold Cup three times each. On Feb. 7, 1999, he became the 14th jockey in North American racing history to ride 6,000 winners. He was inducted to the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. in 1993, and into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 2002.

**Grover "Bud" Delp****1932-2006**

Born in Creswell, Md., Bud Delp has been training horses for more than 40 years. He burst on to the national scene in 1978 as the trainer of 2-year-old champion Spectacular Bid, who was also named 3-year-old champion in 1979. In 1980 Spectacular Bid was named Horse of the Year and Delp won the Eclipse Award as the nation's top trainer. Delp was the leading trainer at Fair Grounds during the 1980-81 season with 60 victories while training such Fair Grounds stakes winners as Dispersal, Aspro, Silent King and Cagey Cougar. He also won the 1981 Fair Grounds Oaks with Truly Bound. He returned to Fair Grounds during the 2000-01 season and won the Grade II New Orleans Handicap with Include. He has won seven training titles at Pimlico Race Course, was leading trainer at Delaware Park from 1963-72, leading trainer at Monmouth Park from 1970-72, leading trainer at Arlington Park and Hawthorne in 1977. He has won more than 3,500 races in his distinguished career.

**Diplomat Way****Bay Colt 1964****Nashua-Jandy**

Owned by Harvey Peltier and trained by J. O. Meaux. Purchased at 2 by Harvey Peltier, Diplomat Way turned an immediate profit by winning the 1966 Arlington-Washington Futurity, then the nation's richest race. At three, Diplomat Way won the Louisiana Derby Trial and finished second in the Derby before going on to annex the Blue Grass Stakes, the Laurence Armour and the Chicago Handicaps. Diplomat Way's most successful year came in 1968 when he returned to the Fair Grounds to win the New Orleans and Louisiana Handicaps and finish second in the Letellier. He then traveled north to capture the Oaklawn Handicap. In 46 starts Diplomat Way won 14 times, with ten seconds and seven thirds and earnings of \$493,760. After his retirement, he stood at stud in Florida where he sired many stakes winners in both America and England, the most familiar of whom to Fair Grounds' fans was the speedy Colonel Power, also a member of the Fair Grounds' Racing Hall of Fame.

**Dixie Poker Ace****Bay Gelding 1986****Patriotically-Hot Stripper**

Bred in Louisiana by John Franks, owned by Sebastien Farm, Inc. and Robert Sheperd, and trained by James A. "Archie" Sebastien and Tim Sebastien. A rags-to-riches horse who captured the imagination of Louisiana racing fans and horsemen

during eight seasons of racing, Dixie Poker Ace was trained for most of his career by Archie Sebastien who died in March 1985. Initially, he was purchased by Sebastien for \$800 as a yearling. Sebastien's son, Tim, saddled him as a nine-year-old to the all-time leading Louisiana-bred money-earner title on March 15, 1996, at Fair Grounds where, after winning the 10th race on the card, his career earnings rose to \$848,326, surpassing Free Spirit's Joy who had held the title with \$841,279. Dixie Poker Ace won nine stakes at Fair Grounds and finished in the money in nine others. He won the Col. E.R. Bradley Handicap three consecutive years (1992-94) and the Louisiana Champions Day Turf three straight times (1991-93). He demonstrated his effectiveness on the turf as well as on the main track, winning both at sprints and over a route of ground. All told, Dixie Poker Ace started 86 times, winning 27 races (17 of which were stakes) with 17 seconds and 15 thirds. He is now a pensioner at Wraparound Farm near Shreveport, La.

### **Joseph P. Dorignac Jr. 1923-1991**

New Orleans native Joe Dorignac was a self-made millionaire supermarket operator who became interested in Thoroughbreds in 1970. Dorignac would remain a major force in both the breeding and racing industries for the next two decades. As the state's leading breeder in 1979 and again in 1983, Dorignac produced such local favorites as Beau Groton, Future Hope, Paper Man, and Galaxy Road. His all-time leading money earner was Diamond Black, winner of the 1973 Thanksgiving Handicap. In 1983, he sold Gentilly Handicap winner Real Dare for \$750,000, still a record for a Louisiana-bred. Dorignac was part-owner of Fair Grounds for many years and served as the track's president from 1977 until 1984.

### **Joseph P. Dorignac III 1946-2006**

New Orleans native Joey Dorignac first became interested in horses as a boy. At age 7, he began showing horses, and as his interest peaked, he took out a Thoroughbred trainer's license in 1967. Dorignac's horses consistently ranked among the top competitors wherever he went. He led all trainers at Fair Grounds in victories three times – 1972, 1975 and 1984 – and finished second six times (1971-73-74-77-79-80). He also won training titles at Arlington Park and Atlantic City Race Course. His stakes success at Fair Grounds included a pair of victories in the Furl Sail Handicap, the 1974 Pan Zareta with Big Dare and the Thanksgiving Handicap in 1973 with Diamond Black. His family served as part owner of Fair Grounds for many years, and his father served as the track's president from 1977-84.

### **Henry Forrest 1907-1975**

Henry Forrest, a native of Covington, Ky., trained a stable at Fair Grounds every winter during the 1940s through the early 1970s. He began his training career under trainer Jerome Respass after a stint as an exercise rider for Colonel E.R. Bradley, owner of Fair Grounds in the 1920s and '30s. Throughout his career, Forrest trained for industry giants Calumet and Claiborne Farms, before going into business for himself. He saddled two Kentucky Derby winners: Kauai King in 1966 and Forward Pass in 1969. At the time of his death in 1975, Forrest was the winningest trainer ever at Churchill Downs with 265 wins. His popularity among his peers was legendary, and was honored as one of the true gentlemen of the sport. He amassed nearly \$4 million in purses with slow and steady success; the glory races were few and far between. Other horses of note trained by Forrest are Best Turn, Ole Liz, Dike, and Title. At Fair Grounds, he won the 1948 Thanksgiving Handicap with Traveler, the 1953 Pelleteri Handicap with Ever Bright and the 1962 Lecomte Handicap with Treasury Note.

### **Robert Frankel 1941-2009**

Frankel was one of the most successful trainers in the history of thoroughbred racing. Born in Brooklyn in 1941, Frankel was a top trainer for 40 years. He began training in 1966 and won his first race that same year. For nine years, Frankel's barn won at least \$10 million eight times. His career record was 3,652 races from 17,657 starters. Frankel won the Eclipse Award as top trainer five times and his horses won 11 Eclipse Awards. At Fair Grounds, Frankel won all four of the track's season-ending marquee races: the Louisiana Derby (High Limit and Peace Rules), the Fair Grounds Oaks (Pampered Star), the New Orleans Handicap (Badge of Silver and Peace Rules) and Mervin H. Muniz Memorial Handicap (Proudinsky twice).

### **John Franks 1925-2003**

After becoming one of the state's top oilmen, this Haughton, La., native turned his attention to the development and racing of Thoroughbreds in early 1980. In the decade that followed, Franks topped the nation in wins six times and in earnings three times while establishing farms in Louisiana and Florida. Among the top horses to carry the famous orange, green and white Franks colors were Dansil, Dave's Friend, Derby Wish and Top Avenger. Franks' first stakes winner was Honor King who won the 1981 Black Gold Handicap. Other notable Fair Grounds wins were produced by Monique Rene, Police Inspector, Lyphover, Illustrious High and Blissful Union. Franks won the 1986 New Orleans Handicap with Herat and the 1990 renewal with Horse of the Meet Festive. A four-time Eclipse Award-winning owner, Franks led the nation in races won seven straight years, from 1983-89.

## **Furl Sail**

### **Bay Filly 1964**

#### **Revoked-Windsail, by Count Fleet**

Bred and owned by Mrs. E.K. Thomas, trained by John Winans. Furl Sail began her Eclipse Award-winning season as champion 3-year-old filly of 1967 at Fair Grounds, winning the Thelma Stakes and Fair Grounds Oaks. She would go on to capture the first two legs of the Filly Triple Crown at Aqueduct, winning the Acorn and Mother Goose Stakes. Her other stakes victories in 1967 included the La Troienne Stakes at Churchill Downs and the Betsy Ross Handicap at Garden State Park. In her Eclipse-winning season, she made 12 stakes starts, with six wins, two seconds and three third-place finishes for earnings of \$192,667. All told, her 3-year-old record included 10 wins from 17 starts. At 4, Furl Sail was retired with 17 victories, two seconds and three thirds in 34 career starts. Her career earnings totaled \$273,759. The Furl Sail Handicap, run for older fillies and mares at about 1 1/16 miles on the turf each January at Fair Grounds, is named in her honor.

## **John (Uncle Mack) Garner**

### **1900-1936**

Born in Centerville, Iowa, to a riding family, Garner's father, grandfather and five brothers were jockeys. He rode his first race in 1915 and was the nation's leading jockey in purses and winners that year. In 1929 Garner again led the nation's riders in terms of winners and purses earned. Garner was at various times rider for such top stables as Audley Farm, J. C. Milam, Joseph E. Widener, and Brookmeade Stables. It was with Brookmeade's Cavalcade that he won the 1934 Kentucky Derby. He also rode two Belmont Stakes winners, Blue Larkspur (1929) and Hurryoff (1933). A regular rider at Fair Grounds, Garner scored many notable victories here, including back-to-back wins in the New Year's Handicap (1918-19) aboard Dick Williams and Lucky B. He is a member of the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

## **Edward R. (Snapper) Garrison**

### **1868-1930**

Born in New Haven, Conn., Garrison became a blacksmith's apprentice at age 12 and later a jockey apprentice under legendary trainer "Father Bill" Daly. In a 15 year career from 1882-1897, Garrison won over \$2 million in purses, an amazing amount in an era of limited racing dates. Among his major victories were the Belmont, the American Derby, the Suburban (twice) and the Withers (three times). Because of his whip-and-spur riding style through the stretch, his name passed into racing language with the phrase "Garrison finish." Garrison made several appearances at Fair Grounds, most notably winning the 1895 Ladies Day Handicap with the well rated ride aboard Hi Henry. Garrison is a member of the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

## **Grindstone**

### **Dark Bay or Brown Colt 1993**

#### **Unbridled-Buzz My Bell, by Drone**

Bred and owned by Overbrook Farm, trained by D. Wayne Lukas. Grindstone moved into select company in the spring of 1996. He won the Louisiana Derby, and then, less than two months later, became only the second Louisiana Derby winner to win the Kentucky Derby. A moderately regarded contender in the shedrow of trainer D. Wayne Lukas, Grindstone rallied in the stretch to defeat favorite Zarb's Magic and win the Louisiana Derby in stakes-record time of 1:42 3-5 for the 1 1/16 miles. The Louisiana Derby was only Grindstone's fourth career start, following a successful debut at Belmont Park in June 1995, a fourth-place finish in the Bashford Manor Stakes the next month and an allowance win at Santa Anita less than a month before the Louisiana Derby. He was second by a neck in the Arkansas Derby before earning his place in racing history, nosing out Cavonnier for the Kentucky Derby win. That would, however, be Grindstone's last race. Five days later, a bone chip in his right knee was discovered and he was retired. Grindstone's racing career ended with three wins and two seconds in six starts, with earnings of \$1,224,510.

## **T.A. Grissom**

### **1904-1981**

A native Kentuckian who went North with \$20 in his pocket, Grissom founded a large automobile dealership in Detroit. In the late 1940s he got into the Thoroughbred business and eventually became the owner of Duntreath Farm near Lexington, Ky., from which he bred, raced, and sold top race horses. Grissom was the leading owner at the Fair Grounds meets between 1955-1965 and was runner up to W. Hal Bishop and the Brown Racing Stable on several other occasions. At Fair Grounds he campaigned such stakes winners as Tonsina, City Line, Shan Pac, Susan's Gent, Miracle Hill, Seafes, Charolero, 1962 Kentucky Derby runner-up Roman Line, and Florida Derby winner Money Broker.

## **Eric Guerin**

### **1924-1993**

Born in Maringouin, La., Guerin began riding at the age of 16 and rode until 1974. He rode more than 20,000 mounts, winning nearly 2,700 races and finishing in the money almost 4,000 times. He won more than \$17 million in purses. Guerin won the 1947 Kentucky Derby aboard Jet Pilot and back-to-back Belmonts: in 1953 with Native Dancer and 1954 with High Gun. He

was the regular rider of Native Dancer, who was the nation's champion two-year old in 1952 and three-year old in 1953. A regular rider at the Fair Grounds throughout the 1940s, Guerin won many important races here, including the Thanksgiving Handicap in 1942, 1946, and 1968, the 1945 New Year's Handicap with Fox Brownie, the 1946 Louisiana Handicap with Flareback, the inaugural Kenner Stakes with Nearway, and the 1956 New Orleans Handicap with Find. Guerin was elected to the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. in 1972.

### **Abe Hawkins**

**?-1867**

Abe Hawkins was the most celebrated jockey in America prior to Isaac Murphy and is perhaps the first African-American professional athlete to gain national and international prominence. While a slave in Louisiana, he accomplished his most notable victory as a rider aboard Lecomte when he defeated Lexington in a match race at the famous Metairie Race Course in New Orleans in April 1854. After the Civil War, Hawkins went North and achieved celebrity and fortune, particularly at Saratoga where he won, among other races, the 1866 Travers Stakes aboard Merrill. His skill as a jockey was legend and his riding style later came to be known as the "American seat" which Tod Sloan and Willie Simms popularized some 20 years later. He was called upon to ride the best horses of his era including Arrow, Whale, Panic, Minnehaha, Louis d'Or, Rhynodine, and Asteroid. Hawkins died in 1867 and was buried overlooking the training track at the Ashland Plantation of Duncan Kenner near Donaldsonville, La. His obituary in the sporting publication Turf, Field, and Farm remembered Hawkins as "a master of his profession and not less faithful than he was competent . . . Good riders and strictly honest ones are rare, therefore the death of Abe is an irreparable loss to the American Turf."

### **Johnny Heckmann**

**1933-2014**

Johnny Heckmann's success in Thoroughbred horse racing began on Aug. 1, 1951, when he won his first race at Washington Park in Chicago. He went on to win 22 more races that year and continued his winning ways until his retirement in 1965. He amassed 1,692 wins from more than 12,000 mounts and earned purses totaling more than \$6.2 million. He established himself as a leading rider on both the Kentucky and Louisiana circuits, but Fair Grounds was home for the New Orleans native. Heckmann was twice a winner of the Louisiana Derby, first in 1958 with Royal Union and again in 1965 with Dapper Delegate, who also captured the Lecomte Handicap that same year. His pairing with Speed Rouser for trainer Clifford Scott, also a member of the Fair Grounds Hall of Fame, resulted in a victory in the 1954 Sugar Bowl Handicap. As an older horse, Speed Rouser had his best year in 1957, giving Heckmann victories in the Louisiana, Lecomte and Pelleteri Breeder's Cup Handicaps. Heckmann was a three-time Sugar Bowl Handicap winner in addition to his win with Speed Rouser, he also captured it in 1958 with Nemine for Fair Grounds Hall of Famer Vester "Tennessee" Wright and in 1960 with Market Road, who was conditioned by Henry Forrest. Tall for a rider at 5-foot-6, he struggled with maintaining his weight for his entire career. He had his best year in 1956 at age 23 when he tallied 273 winners for purse earnings of just over \$1 million. He has lived in New Orleans since his retirement from racing.

### **William G. Helis, Sr.**

**1886-1950**

This Greek immigrant became a self-made millionaire and one of the most noted Thoroughbred owners of his time. He won the 1944 Louisiana Derby with Olympic Zenith and the 1947 New Orleans Handicap with Earshot, and also owned such stakes winners as Tropea and Triton. His biggest contribution to Fair Grounds history was his role in saving the track from the auction block in 1941. A contemporary newspaper account read: "The money with which to buy the (30-day) option was put up the day before by William G. Helis, New Orleans capitalist and sportsman. Owner of one of the most important racing establishments in the United States, Mr. Helis was actuated solely by a spirit of civic consciousness, a belief that properly conducted Thoroughbred horse racing was a distinct asset to the city of New Orleans."

### **Samuel Clay Hildreth**

**1866-1929**

Born in Independence, Mo., Hildreth was one of the most popular horsemen ever to race at the Fair Grounds. He was one of the track's top money-winning owners from the turn of the century until 1908. In Hildreth's stable were Crescent City Derby winners Meelick, Guiding Star, and Witful as well as Boston Club Handicap winner Ram's Horn. During this time he employed Frank James, brother of Jesse, as his betting commissioner. Hildreth was the nation's leading owner from 1909-11 and leading trainer in 1921 and 1927. He trained for Rancocas Stable, which led the nation in earnings from 1921-1923, as well as for such prominent owners as August Belmont, William C. Whitney, Charles Kohler and E. J. "Lucky" Baldwin. He saddled winners of the Brooklyn Handicap seven times, the Belmont Stakes six times and the Suburban and Metropolitan five times each. He is a member of the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

### **Neil Howard**

**1949-**

Born in Riverdale, N.Y., Neil Howard got his first job on the racetrack working for John Cotter at Belmont Park in 1969. He also worked for Woody Stephens and his brother Bill, but credits trainer Mack Miller with having the most influence on his career. He went on his own in 1980 and in 1984 he went to work for William Farish of Lane's End Farm. He has developed a long list

of stakes-winning horses. The most brilliant was 2003 Horse of the Year Mineshaft, who began his champion season at Fair Grounds with wins in the Diplomat Way Handicap and the Grade II New Orleans Handicap. Those would be the first two of his seven stakes wins that year, including four Grade I events. His eight graded stakes wins at Fair Grounds are the most of any trainer in the track's history. That list included back-to-back runnings of the New Orleans Handicap, with Parade Leader (2002) and Mineshaft; two Louisiana Derby victories, in 1992 with Line in the Sand and 1998 with Comic Strip, and the 1992 Fair Grounds Oaks with Prospectors Delite. He trained Summer Squall, who in 1990 won both the Preakness Stakes and the Blue Grass and finished second in the Kentucky Derby. In 2000 he won the Kentucky Oaks with Secret Status. Howard has won training titles at Keeneland's spring meet in 1994 and took back-to-back titles in 1997-98 at the Churchill Downs fall meet.

### **Ben (Plain Ben) Jones**

**1882-1961**

Born in Parnell, Mo., Jones saddled his first winner at Oklahoma City in 1909. For the next 23 years Jones bred and raced his own horses throughout the Midwest circuit, including regular stops at the Fair Grounds. In 1932, Jones took over the Woolford Farms' stable for which he trained 13 stakes winners, including 1938 Kentucky Derby winner Lawrin. The following year, he began training duties at Calumet Farm. In his 14 year tenure there, he saddled Calumet's Devil's red and blue colors on five Kentucky Derby winners, four Horses of the Year and two Triple Crown winners. Among the greats under his care were Citation, Whirlaway, Pensive, Ponder, Bull Lea, Armed, Coaltown and Twilight Tear. "Plain Ben", as he was known throughout the racing industry, is a member of the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

### **Duncan Farrar Kenner**

**1813-1887**

Orphaned at age 10, Kenner went on to become one of the state's most prominent citizens. A noted sugar producer and later a Confederate legislator, he helped his brother Minor plan and develop the New Orleans suburb of Kenner, now one of Louisiana's largest municipalities. Kenner also developed one of the nation's first racing stables, owning and breeding Thoroughbreds at his Ashland Plantation near Donaldsonville, La. Kenner successfully campaigned his stable at race tracks in Charleston, Mobile and Natchez as well as the famed Metairie Course in New Orleans, of which he was one of the founders in 1838. Kenner was among those who organized the New Louisiana Jockey Club in 1880 that was brought about by financial woes suffered by the original Louisiana Jockey Club, which founded Fair Grounds in 1872. Kenner served as president of the New Louisiana Jockey Club from 1886 until his death in 1887.

### **Marie G. Krantz**

**1935-2003**

Krantz, a former owner and breeder, spent 13 years as chairman of the board of Fair Grounds after purchasing controlling interest in the track in April 1990. When a fire in December 1993 destroyed the track, Krantz pledged her personal assets to finance the rebuilding process and presided over the ribbon cutting of the new facility in 1997. Krantz, a pioneer among women racetrack executives, got her start in the racing industry working in admission and administration at the now-defunct old Jefferson Downs in 1958 before eventually becoming administrative assistant for track owner John G. Masoni in 1963. When Hurricane Betsy destroyed the track in 1965, Krantz was the only employee retained and assumed the duties of construction manager for the "new" Jefferson Downs, which opened in Kenner in 1971. Krantz was named assistant general manager of the track the following year. The track ceased operations in 1992. In 1986, Krantz and her son, Bryan Krantz, purchased Jefferson Downs from Masoni and successfully spearheaded the introduction of off-track betting in the late 1980s. As a Thoroughbred owner, Krantz enjoyed her most successful campaign with Victoria Lass, who won the 1967 Pan Zareta Stakes en route to amassing 17 wins from 50 starts and earning \$59,655.

### **Sylvester W. Labrot**

**1901-?**

Sylvester Labrot was born in Frankfort, Ky., and developed an interest in racing while an engineering student at Lehigh University. He owned Holly Beach Farm in Maryland, at the time considered to be the finest Thoroughbred breeding establishment in Maryland. He was president of American Creosote Works which had branches in New York, New Orleans and many other cities. Labrot was one of New Orleans' most influential business and social leaders, a sportsman with a national reputation. He brought together the Helis group to save the track from the auction block in 1941. He was elected president of Fair Grounds Corporation and Fair Grounds Breeders and Racing Association in 1941. He also owned 1948 Louisiana Derby winner Bovard.

### **Allen (Black Cat) LaCombe**

**1919-1989**

One of the city's best known and most endearing characters, LaCombe won fame as a promoter of boxing matches, beauty contests and semi-pro football games. During World War II, he threw a party for his draft board and staged boxing matches for the King of Egypt. He picked up his bad luck nickname during a stint as a newspaper handicapper when he selected nine winners in a day and bet against each one of them. He was a well-publicized and highly unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate in 1960. From 1966 until his death, LaCombe served as director of publicity for the Fair Grounds. His funeral services included a six-furlong trip around the track for one final stretch run.

## **Lecomte**

### **Chestnut Colt 1850**

#### **Boston-Reel**

Bred by Thomas Wells in Wellswood, La. Lecomte's maiden victory was in 1853 at the Metairie Race Course, winning at mile heats, the second heat being the fastest run to that date. After winning his next four races, he met his first defeat in April 1854, finishing behind the immortal Lexington. One week later he won four straight one mile heats with an average time of 1:53 3/4, and in doing so handed Lexington his only career defeat. After winning his next three starts, Lecomte was beaten at four miles by Lexington at Metairie on April 14, 1855, bringing to a close one of the most famous rivalries in American Turf history. In 1856, Lecomte was purchased for \$10,000 by Lexington's owner, Richard Ten Broeck and sent to England to race where he died of colic the following year.

## **John S. Letellier**

### **1900-1968**

Born in New Orleans, the son of famed horseman A.B. Letellier, John was one of a group of racing-minded New Orleanians who formed the Fair Grounds Corporation and saved the track from real estate developers in 1941. In 1943, he was elected president of the Fair Grounds Corporation and served in that capacity until his death. During his tenure, Fair Grounds underwent many changes designed to bring it into the modern era. Letellier directed the complete rebuilding of the track's racing surface in 1947, designing it with Thoroughbred safety in mind. Letellier was responsible for the state's first \$100,000 race.

## **Lexington**

### **Bay Colt 1850**

#### **Boston-Alice Carneal**

Lexington was foaled on March 17, 1850, and at the time of his death July 1, 1875, he was considered by observers of the Turf to have been the embodiment of the consummate American racehorse and stallion. "Lexington is at once the most illustrious, the most historically significant, and, in his influence as a progenitor, the most potent and far-reaching of American Thoroughbreds," said Turf historian John Hervey in *Racing in America 1665-1865*, published in 1944 for The Jockey Club. His match races with Lecomte in the antebellum South at the old Metairie Course in New Orleans in 1854 became the material of American racing legend. A winner of six races in seven career starts (including his race against the clock), his earnings amounted to \$56,600. During his career as a stallion which began in 1861, he topped the American sires' list every year until his death in 1875 and then twice posthumously for a total of 16 years -- an amazing accomplishment since the Civil War had not only destroyed the South, which had been the nucleus of American racing, but also many of the Thoroughbreds who resided there. Bred in Kentucky by Lexington breeder Dr. Elisha Warfield, a physician and merchant, the brawny bay with a blaze face and four white stockings was at first named Darley, due to his resemblance to Sartorius' painting of the Thoroughbred Foundation sire the Darley Arabian. Interestingly, Lexington was a male line descendant of the Byerly Turk. He was renamed Lexington when he was purchased by a syndicate headed by Richard Ten Broeck. Their plan was to have him represent Kentucky in the 1854 Great State Post Stakes at Metairie. In the Kentucky stud of Rogert Alexander's Woodburn, his success was phenomenal and his influence on the American Turf was unparalleled. Nine of the first 15 Travers Stakes winners were won by his offspring. Among progeny he sired were champions Kentucky, General Duke, Vauxhall, Harry Bassett, Tom Bowling, Acrobat, Sultana, and the Duke of Magenta. Upon his death, Lexington's skeletal remains were donated to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington and now are stored in the Army Medical Museum. They remain the Property of the Department of Natural History's Division of Mammals.

## **Jack Lohman**

### **1939-1997**

Jack Lohman, one of the state's most influential racing figures, was one of Louisiana's leading owner-breeders for nearly three decades and served several terms as vice president of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association. Born in Two Rivers, Wis., in 1939, Lohman moved to New Orleans, where he attended Tulane University on a Navy scholarship. He earned a B.A. in Business Administration but preferred studying agriculture. While attending Tulane, Lohman held jobs as a hotwalker and an assistant in the photo finish department at Fair Grounds. Later he enlisted in the Navy serving in the Korean War. After exploring the world, he returned from Kentucky to Louisiana and his first love -- horses. Since moving Clear Creek Stud to Folsom from Kentucky in 1969, no human being has influenced Thoroughbred racing in Louisiana as he did. He was President of the Louisiana Breeders Sales Company and president and chairman of the Louisiana Horse Council. Class is the quintessential adjective to describe Lohman. He was refined and sophisticated in all situations. At Clear Creek Stud, visitors were delighted with Lohman's outlook. He bought Big Joker, who was the first son of Bold Ruler to ever stand in Louisiana, and the standout stallion named Ramirez. Ramirez, a Croup One winner in France, never ran in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, but did defeat three consecutive winners of the Arc in 1975 and was Lohman's most talked-about accomplishment at the moment. Another of his accomplishments was the inauguration of Louisiana Champions Day, a showcase day for Louisiana-breds. In 1989, Lohman got legislation passed that funded the purses for Louisiana Champions Day which is now the premier event for state-breds in Louisiana. Lohman died on July 10, 1997, following a long battle with cancer, but not before leaving the Louisiana racing industry with a rich legacy. His vision of Thoroughbred racing was unique and he will be long remembered as a winner.

**Johnny Longden**  
**1907-2003**

John Longden's riding career spanned 40 years, during which time he achieved 6,032 victories. Born in Wakefield, England, Longden did not attain United States citizenship until March 1, 1944. By that point, he had already won the Louisiana Derby three times and had piloted Mrs. John D. Hertz's Count Fleet to a Triple Crown sweep. Longden's trio of Louisiana Derby wins came aboard Rushaway in 1936, Wise Fox in 1938, and Amber Light in 1943. It was also in 1943 that Longden won the Triple Crown with Count Fleet. Later in his career, Longden was the trainer of Majestic Prince, who won the 1969 Kentucky Derby and Preakness, and was second in the Belmont. Longden remains the only person to both train and ride Kentucky Derby winners. Rushaway's Louisiana Derby victory was achieved in wire-to-wire fashion, in a stakes and track record time of 1:50 4/5 for 1 1/8 miles. Later that spring, Rushaway won the 1 1/8-mile Illinois Derby and the 1 1/4-mile Latonia Derby (with Longden aboard for both efforts) on consecutive days at two tracks more than 300 miles distance from each other. Wise Fox's Louisiana Derby win was an upset achieved in a photo; same, too, for the Louisiana Derby effort of Amber Light. In 1958, Longden was inducted into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. In 1995, He received a special Eclipse Award for his decades of contributions to racing. John Longden has a special niche at Fair Grounds, too.

**Marriage**

**Chestnut Colt 1936**

**Strolling Player-War Wedding**

Owned by C. L. Dupuy of Texas. The winner of 35 races in a long career, including consecutive victories in the New Orleans Handicap in 1943 and 1944, Marriage won 12 starts in 1941 and captured the Washington Park Handicap the following year. In 1943 he earned \$86,000 with wins in the New Orleans Handicap, the American Handicap, and the Arlington Handicap, and runner-up finishes in the Carter and Metropolitan Handicaps. Marriage's career totals were 99 starts, 35 wins, 11 seconds, and 12 thirds and total earnings of \$216,000.

**John G. Masoni**

**1904-1994**

John G. Masoni, a civil engineer from Cleveland and race track owner, purchased Jefferson Downs at its Metairie site in 1959. After Hurricane Betsy's destruction of Jefferson Downs at the current Lafreniere Park location, he designed, financed, and oversaw construction of the "new" Jefferson Downs in Kenner. In the early 1980s, he became a minority owner of Fair Grounds. Later, he provided the financing for the Krantz family to purchase control of Fair Grounds ownership. His other Thoroughbred ownership interests included Randall Park in suburban Cleveland and Sunshine Park (now Tampa Bay Downs) in Tampa, Fla. He also was involved in the ownership of Southland Greyhound Park in West Memphis, Ark., Daytona Beach Kennel Club in Daytona Beach, Fla., and a number of other pari-mutuel businesses. Masoni was active in racing Thoroughbreds under the stable name of Twin Star Stable. His fondness of racing included a love of his horses and a regular wager on his racing interests.

**Master Derby**

**Chestnut Colt 1972**

**Dust Commander-Madam Jerry**

Bred and owned by Golden Chance Farm and trained by W.E. "Smiley" Adams. Master Derby became the first Louisiana Derby winner to capture the Preakness when he defeated a field which included Kentucky Derby winner Foolish Pleasure. He returned to Fair Grounds the following year to capture the New Orleans Handicap and the Louisiana Handicap. Other notable victories came in the Blue Grass Stakes, Kindergarten Stakes and Oaklawn Handicap. From 1974-76, Master Derby started 33 times, with 16 wins, eight seconds, four thirds and earnings of \$698,624.

**Claude Mauberret, Jr.**

**1922-2004**

A native New Orleanian, Dr. Mauberret graduated from Jesuit High School, Louisiana State University and Auburn School of Veterinary Medicine. He started practicing at Fair Grounds in 1947 and worked at various tracks throughout his distinguished career. He served as a state steward and as a state and track veterinarian. He served on the Louisiana State Racing Commission from 1964-1971. Mauberret was instrumental in helping establish the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine along with Sen. B.B. "Sixty" Rayburn. The doctor has selected many outstanding horses for various owners, including Diplomat Way for the late Harvey Peltier Sr. He also treated Chateaugay, winner of the 1963 Kentucky Derby. He is the first veterinarian enshrined in the Fair Grounds Racing Hall of Fame.

**J.O. Meaux**

**1930-2001**

J.O. Meaux enjoyed a storybook career as a trainer winning numerous stakes races, capturing training titles and training for successful owners. Although he retired more than 15 years ago from training, he's still remembered fondly by veteran horsemen as one of the most successful conditioners at Fair Grounds. The outgoing native of Meaux, La., near Abbeville in the heart of southwest Louisiana's Cajun country, actually began as a Quarter Horse jockey at around age 10. He rode in match races at the local bush tracks as well as across the country before switching to Thoroughbreds. He returned to his farm working

with Quarter Horses before getting his first training license in 1954 at Fairmount Park in southern Illinois. He trained in Illinois in the summers and wintered at the Fair Grounds. Meaux received a superior horseman's education working 10 years with V. R. "Tennessee" Wright's stable, regarded as one of America's premier operations. Wright trained for T.A. Grissom, one of the nation's most prominent owners. Both are members of Fair Grounds' Hall of Fame. Throughout his career, Meaux is perhaps best known for training Harvey Peltier's Diplomat Way and Colonel Power, two of the best horses ever to race at Fair Grounds and also members of Fair Grounds' Hall of Fame. Diplomat Way won such major events as the Arlington-Washington Futurity, the Louisiana Derby Trial, the Blue Grass Stakes, the Laurence Armour and the Chicago Handicap. Later in his career, Diplomat Way, a Nashua colt, took the New Orleans and Louisiana Handicaps and the Oaklawn Handicap. Colonel Power, a son of Diplomat Way, won the Arch Ward, the Illinois Derby and Graustark Stakes in Chicago and the Thanksgiving, Lecomte and Pelleteri Handicaps at the Fair Grounds. In 1975, he set the Fair Grounds' track record of 1:09 for six furlongs, a mark which stood for 15 years. Meaux also conditioned stakes winners such as City Line, winner of the 1963 Louisiana Derby; Smooth Dancer, the 1964 New Orleans Handicap winner, Susan's Gent, Splash Splash, T. Bird, Corn Soup, Smooth and Daring, Vif, Country Chairman and Charolero.

### **Mike's Red**

#### **Bay Colt 1962**

#### **Come on Red-Biz**

Mike's Red was one of the most popular horses ever to race at Fair Grounds. In 1967, in the span of just 36 days, he set track records for six furlongs and one mile and 40 yards. The six-panel mark, 1:10, stood for more than eight seasons. The mile and 40 yards mark, 1:38 3/5, has yet to be lowered in 28 years. Owned by Marion H. Van Berg and trained by his son Jack, Mike's Red, in 1967, also annexed the Oaklawn Handicap at Oaklawn Park, and Inaugural and Chicagoan Handicaps at Sportsman's Park. He won from off the pace, and he won leading wire-to-wire. The career record for Mike's Red includes 60 starts, 21 wins, 11 seconds and nine third-place finishes. His career in-the-money ratio was 68.3 percent. His lifetime earnings totaled \$170,310.

### **Mineshaft**

#### **Dark Bay Colt 1999**

#### **A.P. Indy-Prospectors Delite**

Bred and owned by William S. Farish, James A. Elkins and Temple Webber Jr. and trained by Neil Howard. Mineshaft spend just one season at Fair Grounds, but would prove to be one of the best horses to ever run here. He started his racing career in England, making seven starts with moderate success. He was then sent to Neil Howard and made his U.S. debut at Churchill Downs in November 2002 and responded with a win with Robby Albarado aboard. He started his 2003 seasons with three races at Fair Grounds, winning the Diplomat Way Handicap, finishing second in the Whirlaway Handicap and capturing the Grade II New Orleans Handicap. He would go on to win five of six starters after leaving Fair Grounds, including four Grade I wins: the Suburban, Woodward, and Jockey Club Gold Cup at Belmont Park, and the Pimlico Special. He also won the Grade III Ben Ali at Keeneland. He won the Eclipse Award in 2003 as Horse of the Year and Champion Older Horse, making Mineshaft the first horse to race at Fair Grounds in his Horse of the Year campaign since Whirlaway in 1942. He was retired in late 2003 after winning nine of 11 U.S. starts. His career record, including his starts in England, included 10 wins from 18 starts, with three seconds and one third-place finish and earnings \$2,283,402.

### **Monarchist**

#### **Bay Colt 1869**

#### **Lexington-Mildred**

Purchased by Milton H. Sanford for \$1,900 from Robert A. Alexander of Woodburn Stud in Kentucky, this son of the famed Lexington was like his sire in both appearance and ability. On April 3, 1872, Monarchist won the final stakes run at the Metairie Race Course, his third straight victory at that storied track. Ten days later he won the first stakes run at the Fair Grounds, the Grand Inaugural, in straight two-mile heats. Three days later he won the Louisiana Stakes, again in straight two-mile heats. Monarchist made a total of 17 starts at three and four, winning 12 with three seconds and one third. He died in 1883 at Elmendorf Stud near Lexington, Ky.

### **Monique Rene**

#### **Filly 1978**

#### **Prince of Ascot-Party Date**

Bred by Rutledge Horne, owned by John Franks, trained by Frank Brothers. Monique Rene, a multiple-stakes winning filly, won 29 races from 45 lifetime starts from ages three through six, including back-to-back runnings of the Pan Zareta Handicap (1982-83), the 1983 Chou Croute Handicap, the 1984 Mardi Gras Handicap and 11 other stakes. Brothers remembered her as a "big strapping filly who trained like a colt," adding, "I never trained another horse who *wanted* to run as much as she did." The daughter of Prince of Ascot from the speedy Franks mare Party Date amassed earnings of \$456,250 during her career, which at the time was the highest ever achieved by a Louisiana-bred.

**J.D. Mooney**  
**?-1966**

J.D. Mooney, a New Orleans native and the son of an Irish riverboat man on the Mississippi, rode the famed Black Gold to victory in the 1924 Kentucky Derby. That same year, he also guided Black Gold to wins in the Louisiana, Ohio State, and Chicago Derbys. He rode for ten years with career totals of 261 victories, 258 seconds, and 280 thirds, being in the money 30 percent of the time. Mooney and Black Gold were the subject of the popular book *Black Gold*, written in 1957 by Marguerite Henry. Mooney also won the 1923 Louisiana Derby aboard Amole and he is a member of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. When a race was named in honor of Black Gold at Fair Grounds, the tradition began that the winning jockey would place a wreath of flowers at the champion's grave in the infield. For many years before his death in 1966, Mooney returned to Fair Grounds to accept the wreath from the winning jockey and he would walk to the gravesite to place the flowers while the spectators stood in silent tribute.

**Gardere F. (Gar) Moore**  
**1903-1992**

This innovative administrator served under four different regimes at the Fair Grounds in his long career and helped guide New Orleans racing from the postwar years to the dawn of a new age. Moore went to work for the Fair Grounds in 1946 as director of public relations. In 1952 he was named general manager, a position he held until his retirement in December of 1984. He was elected vice president of the Fair Grounds Corporation in 1969. During his tenure, Moore was responsible for the planning and implementation of many significant changes in Fair Grounds' plant and operational procedures. His creativity was much in evidence in the many promotional and advertising campaigns he designed for Fair Grounds.

**William I. Mott**  
**1953-**

From his modest beginnings training Thoroughbreds in South Dakota in the late 1960s to the pinnacle of his career in the 1990s with Cigar, Bill Mott exemplifies the phrase "true horseman." Mott was introduced to racing by his father, a veterinarian with whom he would often accompany on calls. "He was interested in racing and I followed his lead," Mott said. He trained his first horse, My Assets, at small meets in South Dakota when he was 15. He eventually went to work for Hall of Fame trainer Jack Van Berg for three years before going on his own in the fall of 1978. By 1992, Mott had put together one of the most powerful stables in the country with his clients including Allen and Madeleine Paulson, the Firestones, Claiborne Farm, Pin Oak Stud, Masayuki Nishiyama, and the Maktoums. He has trained such male turf champions as Theatrical in 1987 and Paradise Creek, who won eight of 10 starts in 1994. At Fair Grounds, Mott won 14 stakes races, four won by W.F. Lucas' Taylor's Special. In 1984 he saddled Taylor's Special to win the Louisiana Derby, Black Gold Handicap, and the Louisiana Derby Trial (now known as the Risen Star Stakes). In 1985 he added the Pelleteri Handicap to his resume. Mott also conditioned Lucas' 1991 Louisiana Derby winner Richman, Mrs. Revere, who won the 1985 Truly Bound Stakes and 1986 Furl Sail Handicap, and the Louisiana-bred Tunin In, who won the Harry Allsman in 1983. "I always felt Fair Grounds was a good training facility," he said. "Racing is a little tougher there than people think." Mott, winner of the 1995 and 1996 Eclipse Award for outstanding trainer, attributes most of his success to his supporters, the owners. "You need good luck, hard work, and the right people backing you up along the way. Timing is a lot of it, but you have to make the most of opportunities put in front of you." He also trained 1997 Horse of the Year and Eclipse Award winner Favorite Trick.

**Mervin H. Muniz Jr.**  
**1942-2003**

Mervin Muniz, a New Orleans native and the son of a jockey agent, fell in love with racing at a very young age. He began his racing career as an official at Evangeline Downs in 1966, then took a position in the publicity department at Fair Grounds in 1967 working for Allen "Black Cat" LaCombe. He moved into the Fair Grounds racing office in 1968 and throughout his career he served in almost every official capacity possible – steward, placing judge, patrol judge, paddock judge, clerk of scales, assistant racing secretary, and general manager. He took over as Racing Secretary at Fair Grounds during the 1976-77 season, a position he held until his death. He served under four different regimes at Fair Grounds and worked at every track in Louisiana except Delta Downs. He also held official jobs at tracks in Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Maine and Massachusetts.

**Joseph A. Murphy**  
**(The Judge)**  
**1878-1976**

One of the Fair Grounds' all-time favorite officials, Murphy was renowned for his integrity and sense of fair play. He was already a well-known racing official when he began his Fair Grounds career as general manager in 1915. He also served as chief steward here throughout the 1920s.

**Jimmy Nichols**  
**1927-2003**

Born in Las Cruces, N.M., "Cowboy" Jimmy Nichols rode more than 200 winners at Quarter Horse and bush tracks before officially beginning his riding career in 1946. Nichols shrugged off many career-threatening injuries, including three broken backs, to become one of the nation's most consistent riders. He was particularly adept at riding two-year-olds, and piloted High

Voltage during her championship juvenile season. He rode in five Kentucky Derbys for such horsemen as C. V. Whitney and "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons. A Fair Grounds fixture for many seasons, Nichols won the New Orleans, Louisiana, and Mardi Gras Handicaps twice each and was the regular rider of Fair Grounds favorites Yorktown, Endymion, Joey Bob and Trapeze. After his retirement from riding in 1979, Nichols worked as a steward in Louisiana, West Virginia, and Texas. In his career Nichols won 2,446 races with nearly \$14 million in earnings.

### **No Le Hace**

#### **Chestnut Colt 1969**

#### **Candy Spots-Tasma**

Bred by the Nuckols Brothers, owned by J.R. Straus, and trained by Homer Pardue. Although he had not won or placed in a stakes at two, No Le Hace (Spanish for "it does not matter") came to New Orleans and put together a brilliant campaign during the 1971-72 Fair Grounds season. He won five of six starts during that season, including the Lecomte, while conceding rivals two to 10 pounds. He capped his campaign with a late-charging victory in the 1972 Louisiana Derby, defeating the Harvey Peltier entry of Feloniously and Fame and Power by a nose and a neck. In his first start after leaving Fair Grounds, No Le Hace captured the \$100,000 Arkansas Derby and finished second in the Kentucky Derby (behind Riva Ridge) and the Preakness (behind Bee Bee Bee). In his career, No Le Hace started 34 times with nine wins, eight seconds, and four thirds and total earnings of \$239,752.

### **Winnie O'Connor**

#### **1881-1947**

One of William C. (Father Bill) Daly's proteges, O'Connor became one of his "Five Aces" (McLaughlin, Fitzpatrick, Garrison, and Maher) of superstar status jockeys who rode during racing's turn-of-the-century era. A runaway who was born in South Brooklyn, he was first apprenticed to Daly's brother Mike in 1892 at age 11, but shortly thereafter transferred to the stable of "Father Bill." He rode his first race at Brighton Beach in New York in 1896. In 1897, he had won 45 races from 350 mounts in New York. It was during the 1898-99 Fair Grounds season when Daly brought his stable to New Orleans that O'Connor, age 17 and weighing 79 pounds, blossomed, winning 110 races. His nearest rival was Tommy Burns, who won 52 races that season. By 1901, O'Connor was America's leading rider, with 253 wins from 1,047 mounts. He regularly rode for August Belmont, William C. Whitney, Foxhall Keene, and John Madden. In 1902, O'Connor went to Europe where he rode for Kaiser Wilhelm, Baron Alphonse de Rothschild, and G. H. Mumm. He returned to America in 1924, trained for a while, and was a bartender in Brooklyn when he died in 1947. O'Connor was inducted into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in 1956.

### **John Kenneth (Jack) O'Hara**

#### **1906-1968**

Born in Jamaica, N.Y., O'Hara grew up in the shadow of the old Jamaica race track. He became a Turf writer for the Long Island Press and Morning Telegraph, and in 1951 co-authored Eddie Arcaro's autobiography. O'Hara became a race caller at Wheeling Downs in 1938. He was the regular announcer at Roosevelt Raceway from 1945 until his death, and was the New York Racing Association standby announcer for more than a decade. A big, talkative man, O'Hara was the regular Fair Grounds announcer from 1946 until his death. During that era, O'Hara's trademark staccato calling style came to symbolize Fair Grounds racing for generations of patrons.

### **Pan Zareta**

#### **Chestnut Filly 1910**

#### **Abe Frank-Caddie Griffith**

Bred by J. F. Newman of Texas. Named for the daughter of a Juarez city official, Pan Zareta became the winningest and greatest weight-carrying mare in the history of the American Turf. In 151 starts between 1912-17, Pan Zareta won 76 times, with 31 seconds and 21 thirds. She carried more than 130 pounds 28 times and more than 140 pounds seven times, while setting or equaling 11 track records and American marks at five and 5 1/2 furlongs. Pan Zareta raced at Fair Grounds during the 1916 meeting, winning three of four starts, including one under an impost of 140 pounds. On Jan. 19, 1918, Pan Zareta died of pneumonia and was buried in the Fair Grounds infield. She is a member of the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

### **Homer Pardue**

#### **1910-1979**

Homer Pardue's stable made a regular stop at Fair Grounds in the 1960s and 1970s. He saddled a pair of Louisiana Derby winners – No Le Hace in 1972 and Clev Er Tell in 1977 – and also conditioned local favorite Soy Numero Uno. A native of Louisville, Ky., Pardue grew up in the shadow of Churchill Downs, living "just across from the quarter pole," he said. He sold newspapers on a corner outside of Churchill and would personally deliver the old Racing Record to Col. Matt Winn each morning. He began exercising horses at 14, and a decade later, he was training horses. He had a Kentucky Derby starter in Red Hannigan in 1954, but didn't return to Churchill for the Derby until 1972 with No Le Hace, who finished second in each of the first two legs of the Triple Crown. Arguably, the best ever to come out of Pardue's stable may have been Reneged, who equaled a world record for 4 1/2 furlongs at Belmont Park as a 2-year-old, won nine stakes and had lifetime earnings of more than \$285,000. Pardue died on Jan. 5, 1979, of an apparent heart attack shortly after leaving Fair Grounds' backstretch from

morning workouts.

### **Peace Rules**

#### **Chestnut Colt 2000**

#### **Jules-Hold to Fashion**

Bred by Newchance Farm, owned by Edmund A. Gann, and trained by Gary Contessa and primarily Bobby Frankel, Peace Rules was two-for-two at Fair Grounds, winning the 2003 Louisiana Derby over eventual Kentucky Derby winner Funny Cide and returning the following season to win the 2004 New Orleans Handicap in one of its deepest renewals ever. Overall Peace Rules won nine of 19 career starts – including Grade I wins in the 2003 Blue Grass Stakes, the 2003 Haskell Invitational and the 2004 Suburban Handicap – and earned over \$3 million. He finished third in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, both won by Funny Cide.

### **Anthony Pelleteri**

#### **1893-1952**

Born in New Orleans, Pelleteri became one of the best known figures in American racing, achieving success both as a trainer and race track executive. Pelleteri became a trainer after his Navy discharge in 1918. Over the years, he conditioned such stakes winners as Proper Infantry, Sun Lover, Alma, Andy K., La Reigh, Bull Reigh, and Bottle Cap, who defeated the great War Admiral. In 1941, he won the \$100,000 Santa Anita Handicap, then the world's richest race, with 90-1 longshot Bay View. That same year, Pelleteri put together a partnership with Sylvester Labrot, John Letellier and William Helis to save the Fair Grounds from being sold at auction and developed into a subdivision. From 1941 until his death, he served as executive vice president of the Fair Grounds. In 1936 he married Thelma Letellier, daughter of noted horseman A. B. Letellier. The Fair Grounds annually runs the Thelma Stakes and the Pelleteri Handicap in their honor.

### **Harvey Peltier**

#### **1899-1977**

Harvey Peltier's horses consistently ranked among the top competitors at Fair Grounds during the 1960s and 1970s. In 1967, Peltier's Diplomat Way won four stakes, including the Blue Grass at Keeneland. The following season, Diplomat Way scored four more times in stakes company, his triumphs including the New Orleans, Louisiana and Oaklawn Handicaps. Smooth Dancer, bred and owned by Peltier, won the 1974 New Orleans Handicap. In 1975, Colonel Power, who won numerous stakes for Peltier, set a track record for six furlongs at Fair Grounds that stood for 15 seasons. Peltier was also generous. He donated a horse farm and several stallions, including Listado, to Nicholls State University in Thibodaux to further the state's understanding of the racing industry and to train personnel for future employment in it.

### **Craig Perret**

#### **1951-**

Craig Perret, a New Orleans native, spent much of his early career riding at Fair Grounds. In 1967, he was North America's leading apprentice in purses earned. He won six stakes during the 1973-74 meet, including the Louisiana Futurity, Thelma, Sugar Bowl and Furl Sail Handicaps. Perret rode Bet Twice to a 14-length triumph in the 1987 Belmont Stakes. He won a storybook Kentucky Derby in 1990 with Unbridled. That same season, he rode Housebuster, Safely Kept and With Approval to numerous graded stakes victories. At season's end, Perret was voted the Eclipse Award as North America's outstanding jockey. His induction into the Fair Grounds' Racing Hall of Fame came on March 18, 1994. The following afternoon, Perret rode Kandaly to victory in the Louisiana Derby.

### **Elvis Joseph (E.J.) Perrodin**

#### **1957-2012**

One of the top jockeys in Fair Grounds history, Perrodin won 3,083 races with earnings of \$41,402,415 in a 37-year career from 1975 to 2012. He won more than 200 stakes races, including 56 at Fair Grounds, believed to be the track record. His Fair Grounds stakes wins include the New Orleans Handicap once, the Fair Grounds Oaks twice and the Mervin H. Muniz Memorial Handicap once. Perrodin died in 2012 of brain cancer.

### **Princequillo**

#### **Bay Colt 1940**

#### **Prince Rose-Cosquilla**

One of the great stories in American turf history, Princequillo started out running in \$1,500 claiming races at Empire City Park in 1942, as a 2-year-old, before going on to become a champion on track and as a stallion. Princequillo was brought to New Orleans by fellow Fair Grounds Hall of Famer Anthony Pelleteri, and he won his 3-year-old debut at Fair Grounds in 1943. After being sold for \$2,500, he went on later that year to win the Jockey Club Gold Cup at Belmont Park and the Saratoga Handicap at Saratoga. Princequillo retired with a record of 12 wins from 33 starts. Eventually, he would become the leading American sire three consecutive years, producing 60 stakes winners. He was also named leading broodmare sire eight times. He was the grandsire of Secretariat and Kris S.

**Proud Spell**  
**Bay Filly 2005**

**Proud Citizen-Pacific Spell**

Bred and owned by Brereton Jones, and trained by J. Larry Jones. Proud Spell, who received the 2008 Eclipse Award for Champion 3-Year-Old Filly, won or placed in all 13 of her career starts. She won seven races during her career, the most important being the Grade I Kentucky Oaks and Alabama Stakes, both of which came in 2008. Her two appearances at the Fair Grounds came in early 2008 when she placed second in the Silverbulletday Stakes and won the Fair Grounds Oaks.

**Quatrain**

**Chestnut Colt 1922**

**Omar Khayyam-Bonnie Mary**

Bred by Belair Stud, owned by F. Johnson, and trained by T. J. Harmon. Winner of his only start at 2, Quatrain made every pole a winning one in capturing the Louisiana Derby as a 3-year-old in 1925. After finishing third in the Rex Handicap, Quatrain came back to capture the New Orleans Handicap, becoming the first and only horse to win both the Louisiana Derby and the New Orleans Handicap in the same year. He completed his 1925 season by finishing second in the Saratoga Sales Stakes. Quatrain was never able to regain his three-year-old form, finishing unplaced in 13 starts at four and five. His career totals were 24 starts, with six wins, one second, and two thirds for earnings of \$43,000.

**Rachel Alexandra**

**Bay Filly 2006**

**Medaglia d'Oro-Lotta Kim**

Bred by Dolphus C. Morrison, owned initially by Morrison (through Kentucky Oaks) then by Stonestreet Stables & Harold McCormick, trained initially by Hal Wiggins (through Kentucky Oaks) then by Steve Asmussen, Rachel Alexandra won the 2009 Fair Grounds Oaks impressively while geared down by regular jockey Calvin Borel. She mounted a historic Horse of the Year campaign that season, winning all eight of her races including the Preakness Stakes, becoming the first filly to win the race since 1924, and the Woodward against older males. Following her award-winning 2009, Rachel Alexandra made her 2010 debut at Fair Grounds (the first reigning Horse of the Year to start in New Orleans since Whirlaway in 1942) and finished second in the New Orleans Ladies in front of a record crowd. Following her retirement, Fair Grounds renamed the Grade III Silverbulletday Stakes, the final prep for the Fair Grounds Oaks, in her honor.

**Reel**

**Gray Filly 1838**

**Glencoe-Gallopade**

In 1841, a 3-year-old filly phenomenon named Reel made her racecourse debut in Opelousas, La. When injury forced her retirement from racing in 1843, an observer of the Turf wrote in the sporting journal Spirit of the Times: "Reel passes off the scene, leaving the deep impression on many minds that she had no rival in the United States..." Indeed, Reel had become a racing legend and later became arguably the greatest American broodmare of the 19th Century. Louisiana planter and horseman Thomas Jefferson Wells purchased half-interest in her as a yearling for \$1,000 – a huge sum at that time – then later purchased the other half. For Wells, Reel won 7-of-8 lifetime starts at 3, 4 and 5 – all at two-mile and four-mile heats – and some were completed in record times and against colts. On March 29, 1843, Reel made the final start of her career at the Louisiana Course, not far from where Fair Grounds is situated. Though she was ultimately defeated by the colt George Martin, she was coming on in the last mile and was about to overtake him when she faltered, "although she ran out the heat with great strength," reported the Spirit of the Times. Reel was produced from the Caton mare Gallopade and as such is a member of the famous "Dancing family" of the American Stud Book from which many outstanding Thoroughbreds descend, such as Domino and Affirmed. Reel herself produced 13 foals, all of whom were raised in Louisiana, among which are Lecomte, who once defeated Lexington; Prioress, one of the first American-breds to win major stakes abroad; Starke, War Dance, and Fanny Wells. Direct descendents of Reel include Miz Clementine, Tim Tam, and Winning Colors.

**Risen Star**

**Dark Bay or Brown Colt 1985**

**Secretariat-Ribbon**

Owned by Louie Roussel III and Ronnie Lamarque and trained by Roussel. The first Louisiana Derby winner to capture two jewels of the Triple Crown, this son of Triple Crown winner Secretariat captured the imagination of America's racing public with his brilliant three-year-old campaign. He started at Fair Grounds five times, winning four races, including the Derby Trial and Louisiana Derby. He then won the Lexington at Keeneland and was third in the Kentucky Derby before capturing the Preakness and then the Belmont by an astounding 15 lengths. Injury forced his early retirement following the Belmont Stakes, but Risen Star was awarded the Eclipse Award as 1988's top three-year-old. Risen Star's career totals were 11 starts, eight wins, two seconds, and one third for earnings of \$2,029,845.

**Larry Robideaux Jr.****1934**

Veteran Louisiana-based trainer cared for well-known stakes winners such as Honey Mark, Foxtrail, Mystery Storm, Cinemine and Nanie's Dinner. Trained My Charmer, dam of 1977 Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew. Saddled Honey Mark to third in the Louisiana Derby in 1975.

**Randy Romero****1957-**

Born in Erath, La., Romero is another on a long list of top riders born and raised in south Louisiana. Randy won the first of his four Fair Grounds riding titles in 1979-80. In 1983-84, he set a single season record with 181 winners and followed that with 167 wins the following season. After shifting his tack to New York in the mid 1980s, Romero became the regular rider of champions Go For Wand and the undefeated Personal Ensign. At Fair Grounds, Romero won three Diplomat Way Handicaps and won other stakes with such horses as A Letter to Harry, Taylor's Special and Sefa's Beauty. He captured consecutive runnings of the Week of Fame Ladies' Handicap with Native Mommy in 1988 and 1989. Romero retired from the saddle in 2000 and became a jockey agent.

**Louie J. Roussel III****1946-**

Every year for more than two decades, Louie Roussel III has brought a powerful racing stable to Fair Grounds. He has twice won the Louisiana Derby, with Risen Star in 1988 and Kandaly in 1994. Risen Star went on to triumph in both the Preakness and Belmont Stakes and received the Eclipse Award as North America's champion three-year-old colt. Kandaly's victory was achieved in a stakes-record clocking of 1:42 4/5 for the prevailing Louisiana Derby distance of 1 1/16 miles. Co-owner and trainer of record for both Risen Star and Kandaly, Roussel has achieved many other Fair Grounds triumphs. He won the Davona Dale Stakes with False Glitter in 1986; the Thanksgiving Handicap with Irish Open in 1988; the Louisiana Handicap with Under Orders in 1988; consecutive runnings of the Colonel Power Breeders' Cup with Belek in 1990-91, and the Whirlaway Stakes with Cool Quaker in 1994, to name only a few. Throughout the 1980s, Roussel's family constituted the principal stockholder in Fair Grounds. During their tenure, major renovations were brought to the track, enabling legislation was passed for instate ITW and OTB, and Fair Grounds' simulcast signal was sent to out-of-state markets for the first time in the track's history. Roussel was a major proponent for providing the groundwork that allows the excellent purse structure that exists at Fair Grounds today.

**Ray Salmen****1917-1976**

Ray Salmen owned such local favorites as Pago Hop, Iron Gray and his best horse, A Letter to Harry, which he only got to see race one time. He was a member of the Fair Grounds Board of Directors for nine years. Salmen started coming to the Fair Grounds during high school and always wanted to be a horse owner. While studying at Tulane he started his Mardi Gras stable and his trainer was Tennessee Wright. Upon graduation from Tulane University he was drafted and served in World War II. In 1970 he formed a partnership with A.H. and Albert Stall and the stable ran as ALAHRAY Stable, which campaigned several stakes winners.

**Earl Sande****1898-1968**

Born in Groton, S.D., and raised in Idaho, Sande turned up at Fair Grounds in the fall of 1917, where trainer Joe Goodman put him under contract. On Jan. 5, 1918, he had his first mount at a recognized race track and on Jan. 25, his first winner. The next day he scored on Mary's Beau, a 20-1 shot and F. C. Cole, a 50-1 shot. Sande went on to win the Kentucky Derby three times and the Belmont Stakes five times. Sande won on 26 percent of his mounts, an impressive percentage. He was the country's leading money-winner three times and rode such greats as Man O' War, Sir Barton, Zev, and Gallant Fox. He was immortalized in verse by Damon Runyon: "Maybe--I'll lay against it a million bucks to a fin--Never a handy guy like Sande, bootin' them babies in." He is a member of the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

**Clifford Scott****1914-1992**

Clifford Scott was one of a handful of trainers whose career at Fair Grounds spanned more than five decades. When he died at age 77, racing lost one of its pioneer horsemen. But what a career he enjoyed. Scott, who grew up around Aurora, Ill. (a western Chicago suburb), was 15 years old when he took his first job on the race track in 1929. He learned the Thoroughbred business while galloping horses in Cuba, Louisiana, Illinois and other places before starting as an assistant trainer. In 1935, he got his trainer's license at the old Aurora Race Track. That same year, he won the Joliet Handicap at Aurora Race Track with Rickey Roo, the first of many stakes winners he would train throughout his lengthy career. Perhaps the horse who best illustrated Scott's immense talents was Hoop Bound, who captured the National Jockey Club Handicap at Sportsman's near Chicago in 1962. Some of Scott's other stakes winners included Speed Rouser, Florida Boy, Balladry and Trusty Pro, who won the 1970 Thanksgiving Day Handicap at Fair Grounds, also held Sportsman's Park's six-furlong track record for many years. Scott earned his biggest stakes triumph when he saddled Balladry to win the \$250,000 Sixty Sails Handicap in 1991 at

Sportsman's Park. While owner Omy Spitzer of Oak Park, Ill., was one of the first owners who started backing Scott's career, in later years, he was associated with Avers Wexler's Stage Door Avie, who won the 1986 Sugar Bowl Handicap at Fair Grounds.

## **Tommy Scott**

**1920-2004**

Tommy Scott was a jack-of-all-trades when it came to racetracks. Born in New Orleans, he began his racing career while still in his teens, working as a groom and a hotwalker for his father, Tom Scott, a trainer at Fair Grounds. Chicago-based trainer Joe Bollero took him on as his assistant when he was in his 20s. He later worked as a trainer for Fair Grounds executive vice president Anthony Pelleteri. In 1952, Scott received his first official position becoming Fair Grounds' clerk of scales. Throughout his career, he served in almost every official capacity possible -- steward, placing judge, clerk of scales and assistant racing secretary, and racing secretary. He also moved from track to track, working mainly at Sportsman's Park in Chicago, the old Jefferson Downs in Kenner, as well as Fair Grounds. Scott served as racing secretary for 22 years at Sportsman's until 1987 when he became director of horseman's relations for the National Jockey Club at Sportsman's. His career at Fair Grounds spanned over 25 years. His most memorable were those spent as assistant racing secretary to Larry Boganchutz and Barry Whitehead. Eventually, he became Fair Grounds' racing secretary, a position he held for nine seasons -- from 1967-76. "I have a lot of great memories of Fair Grounds. One thing was always the same -- the horsemen. There were always good horsemen there and it seemed everyone always got along, like one big family."

## **Scott's Scoundrel**

**Dark Bay Gelding 1992**

**L'Enjolcur – Powder Doll**

Bred in Louisiana by Scott Willis, owned by Virgil Huskey, and trained by Robert Bone and Bret Thomas. Scott's Scoundrel won his debut at Fair Grounds and quickly became a local favorite, winning three stakes (Louisiana Futurity colt division, A.L. "Red" Erwin Memorial and Crescent City Derby) in his first season at Fair Grounds. As a 4-year-old, he won the Grade III New Orleans Handicap at Fair Grounds (still the only Louisiana bred to win the race) and the Grade III Ark-La-Tex Handicap at Louisiana Downs. He became the first Louisiana-bred to earn more than \$1 million in his career. His career record includes 22 wins from 50 starts with four seconds and eight third-place finishes for earnings of \$1,270,052. Those totals included 10 wins at Fair Grounds, including eight stakes.

## **William Lee (Bill) Shoemaker**

**1931-2003**

Born in Fabens, Texas, "The Shoe" began riding in 1949 and by the time of his retirement he had become the yardstick by which all future riders will be judged. Shoemaker's association with Fair Grounds began early in his career. In 1950 while battling Joe Culmone for the national riding title, Shoemaker came here to sew up the first of his five championships. He has also led the nation's jockeys in most stakes wins 14 times and earnings ten times. He has 11 Triple Crown victories among his 8,833 wins and rode Horses of the Year John Henry, Forego, Spectacular Bid, Buckpasser, Swaps, Round Table and Ferdinand. Over the years, Shoemaker rode in many important races here, winning the Fair Grounds Oaks with Table the Rumor (1977) and Truly Bound (1981). In his "farewell tour," Shoemaker rode Bertram Firestone's Pedro the Cool to victory in the 1989 Week of Fame Derby. "The Shoe" is still involved in racing as a trainer. He was inducted into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., in 1958.

## **Silverbulletday**

**Dark Bay Filly 1996**

**Silver Deputy – Rokeby Rose**

Bred in Kentucky by Clear Creek and Highclere Inc., owned by Michael Pegram, and trained by Bob Baffert. Silverbulletday was named 2-year-old filly champion of 1998 when winning six of seven starts, including the Grade I Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies. Silverbulletday began her Eclipse Award-winning season as champion 3-year-old filly of 1999 at Fair Grounds, winning the Davona Dale Stakes and Fair Grounds Oaks. She then went on to win six more graded stakes that year, including four Grade I triumphs -- the Kentucky Oaks, Ashland Stakes, Alabama Stakes and Gazelle Handicap. The Grade III Silverbulletday Stakes for 3-year-old fillies is run in her honor each February at Fair Grounds. Silverbulletday's career totals were 14 wins and one second-place finish from 18 starts for earnings of \$2,821,750.

## **James Forman (Tod) Sloan**

**1874-1933**

Born in rural Indiana in the post Civil War era, Sloan had a Huck Finn-like childhood in which he was for the most part on his own. His small stature ultimately led to a career as a jockey, despite a fear of horses. He rode his first winner at Fair Grounds but soon gravitated to the West Coast where he became popular for the racing crouch which at the time was used by only a handful of riders. Always seeking the path to greater fame, he headed back East to what was then America's racing capital, New York City. From there only Europe was left to conquer. Sloan soon left the world of East Coast millionaires for the high society of Europe's kings and queens. There he enjoyed his greatest success.

**Dewey Smith**  
**1930-1993**

Dewey Smith was born in Tyron, N.C., and began a long association with Thoroughbreds by walking hots when he was 11 years old for trainer Jack McKnight. He learned the art and science of training horses from other fine horsemen such as V. R. "Tennessee" Wright and Henry Forrest and put to practice many of their training philosophies. "McKnight always preached the lesson of giving a horse plenty of time," said Smith. "I also learned to run horses where they belong and not fall in love with them. There's a saying around the race track which cautions young trainers to never fall in love with horses or bad women, for either can ruin you." Smith's career lasted more than 30 years--through the 1960s and until the mid-1980s, when he temporarily retired and then until ill health forced his permanent retirement in 1992. He saddled 17 stakes winners, including El Baba, Listcapade, Miracle Hill, Prince Majestic, Infinidad, Silvered, and You're No Blessing. He was leading trainer at Keeneland six times and ranks sixth there in terms of number of winners in a season with 138. He also captured training titles at Churchill Downs three times in the mid-60s. In the late 1950s, he helped school jumpers for the U.S. Olympic team. At Fair Grounds, Smith won the New Orleans Handicap three times: in 1969 with Miracle Hill, in 1971 with Rio Bravo, and in 1983 with Listcapade. He won the 1982 Louisiana Derby with El Baba and, in addition, won three Sugar Bowl Handicaps, three Thanksgiving Handicaps, and he captured the Pelleteri Handicap twice. Among Smith's clients were T. A. Grissom, Audley Farm, Authur Hancock III, Bwamazon Farm, and Mrs. Joe W. Brown.

**J.R. Smith Sr.**  
**1941-2004**

Smith trained some 40 stakes winners. He began his training career as a teenager at Beulah Park in the 1950s and shifted to Chicago in the mid-1960s. He won a dozen local training titles, winning six at Sportman's Park, five at Hawthorne, and one at Arlington Park. Smith claimed Recoup the Cash during the 1993 Arlington meet for \$15,000 and won eight stakes with the gelding for owner Richard E. Trebat, four of which were graded. Later that decade, Smith made another big claim for Trebat, taking Chicago Six for \$18,000 in 1999 and winning nine stakes with him. Smith also trained millionaire Royal Glint for a time, plus Charming Alibi, who he claimed for \$7,500 and saddled to multiple stakes wins. Smith's major Fair Grounds stakes wins include the 1967 Louisiana Derby (Ask the Fare), the 1974 Whirlaway (Tom Tulle), the 1974 Fair Grounds Oaks (Bold Rosie), the 1984 Colonel Bradley (Dugan Knight) and the 1988 Colonel Bradley (Zuppardo's Love).

**Larry Snyder**  
**1942-**

Larry Snyder is one of the most accomplished jockeys in North America, having won 6,388 races during his 34 years of riding Thoroughbreds. In 1989, he was presented the George Woolf Memorial Award, a prize that honors riders whose careers and personal character earn esteem for the individual and the sport of Thoroughbred horse racing. Snyder rode regularly at Fair Grounds during the 1960s and '70s and owes much of his riding success to the Van Berg family. He was leading rider at a number of tracks including Louisiana Downs (six times), Arlington Park, Sportsman's Park, Detroit Race Course and Hazel Park. Snyder is an eight-time riding champion at Oaklawn Park and shares the Oaklawn record for wins on a single program, set in 1969 when he rode six winners from eight mounts on April 1. North America's leading rider in 1969 with 352 wins, Snyder has ridden his fair share of standouts, including Diplomat Way and Sunny's Halo. At Fair Grounds, Snyder captured the 1985 New Orleans Handicap aboard Westheimer, won back-to-back runnings of the Black Gold Handicap from 1965-'66 with Herb Scott and Mike's Red, and was also aboard Salt Dome when he won the 1987 running of the Colonel Power Handicap. Snyder retired from riding in 1994 and became a steward at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

**Spanish Play**  
**Bay Colt 1931**  
**Spanish Prince-Anna Horton**

Bred by Audley Farm, owned by Knebelkamp and Morris and trained by C. E. Gross. Spanish Play was one of the most popular horses to race in New Orleans during the 1930s. He won the Louisiana Derby in 1931 (the last year the Derby was run at Jefferson Park) in a stakes record-tying 1:51 1-5, then was fourth in the Kentucky Derby later that spring. He came back the next year at Fair Grounds to win the New Orleans Handicap by a length over a muddy track under highweight of 123 pounds. Spanish Play remains one of only two horses to win both the Louisiana Derby and New Orleans Handicap. In his career, Spanish Play compiled a total of 17 victories.

**Albert M. Stall Sr.**  
**1931-**

The prominence of Albert M. Stall Sr. is recognized in racing circles throughout the Bayou State. He has chaired the Louisiana State Racing Commission on three occasions, from 1972-81, 1984-88 and his current term. Stall was a major proponent in bringing off-track wagering, Sunday cards and the open claiming rule to Louisiana, and has championed drug testing programs for both equine and human participants in his continued desire to ensure the integrity of the sport. Stall has been the owner or co-owner of more than 30 stakes winners, including Combat Ready, who won the 1973 New Orleans Handicap; Lady Vie, who won the 1970 Kentucky Oaks, and Charming Duke, who won a division of the 1985 Hollywood Derby. From 1974-76, Stall won three editions of the Thelma Stakes at Fair Grounds, with Niece, Regal Rumor, and Lady B. Gay. He won the 1979 Diplomat Way and Louisiana Handicaps with Dr. Riddick, whose career earnings totaled over \$400,000. On the global scale, Stall has

served as president of the Association of Racing Commissioners International. His horses have won races in England, France and Ireland, and his colt Corwyn Bay won the inaugural running of the Cartier Million, which at the time was the richest event for 2-year-olds in the world. But Stall's heart has always remained at the track situated on Gentilly Boulevard in the Crescent City – Fair Grounds Race Course. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Oklahoma, Stall has long been prominent in the Louisiana oil industry.

### **Al Stall Jr.**

**1961-**

Stall worked with racehorses at tracks throughout his teenage years during school vacations and while a college student. Among his employers was Hall of Fame trainer Jack Van Berg and six-time Fair Grounds leading trainer Frank Brothers. Stall's most famous charge was 2010 Breeders' Cup Classic winner and Champion Older Horse Blame, bred and owned by Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider. He trained Louisiana legend Star Guitar, winner of a record five Louisiana Champions Day races. Stall became the primary trainer for Claiborne Farm in 2007 when his former mentor Brothers retired from training. He also trains horses for the Claiborne-Adele Dilschneider partnerships and horses that Dilschneider breeds and runs in her own name, such as Super Derby winner Apart. At Fair Grounds, Stall has won or shared two training titles (1997-1998, outright, and 1998-1999, tied with Tom Amoss) and has won more than a dozen stakes, including the inaugural Mervin H. Muniz Jr. Memorial Handicap and two other graded races in 1998 with Joyeux Danseur. His other Fair Grounds stakes winners were Daylight Ridge, King Roller, Moonlight Dancer, Raspberry Wine, Tighantuir, Top Seed, Total, Up Dip and Wild Lightning.

### **Star Guitar**

**Bay Colt 2005**

**Quiet American-Minit Towinit**

Bred and owned by the Brittlyn Stable of Maurice & Evelyn Benoit and trained by Al Stall Jr., Star Guitar earned 22 of his 24 wins in stakes races. He won an unprecedented five Louisiana Champions Day races at Fair Grounds, including three consecutive runnings of the Louisiana Champions Day Classic (2009-2011), in addition to the 2007 LCD Juvenile and the 2008 LCD Sprint. Star Guitar holds the Louisiana-bred earnings mark by winning the 2012 Costa Rising Stakes, his 10<sup>th</sup> win at Fair Grounds from 12 starts.

### **J. R. Straus Sr.**

**1899-1984**

Joseph R. Straus Sr. first became interested in horses as a boy in San Antonio, Texas, where his father operated a leather goods business and was on the board of directors of the San Antonio International Fair. It was this fair that first brought organized Thoroughbred racing to San Antonio in 1899. In the mid-1930s, when he reached adulthood and became involved in the family business, Straus purchased his first Thoroughbred horse, beginning an involvement with the industry that would span half a century. Always prominent in New Orleans racing, it was in 1971 that Straus' good horse No Le Hace, one of his homebreds, brought him to the forefront of the racing world. Winning the Sugar Bowl Handicap at Fair Grounds as a two-year-old. No Le Hace went on the following year to win the 1972 Lecomte Handicap and Louisiana Derby before second-place finishes in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness. Later that decade, Clev Er Tell accomplished the same Fair Grounds triple, winning the Sugar Bowl and Lecomte Handicaps and the Louisiana Derby for Straus in 1977. The partnership between Straus and his longtime trainer Homer Pardue produced other notable wins, including the 1977 Louisiana Handicap with Soy Numero Uno, and the 1970 Pontalba with Emperor's Desire. Horses from the Straus stable captured two Arkansas Derbys -- No Le Hace (1972) and Clev Er Tell (1977). Straus was very active in the breeding aspect of his business, and nearly all the horses that he raced were bred on his farm. He was outspoken in his belief that medication of every kind should be eliminated from racing. He remained active and enjoyed his horses up until his death on April 5, 1984. Today, his sons, David and Joe Jr., continue their involvement with the Thoroughbred industry, focusing their attention mainly on breeding.

### **Taylor's Special**

**Bay Colt 1981**

**Hawkin's Special-Bette's Gold**

William F. Lucas' Taylor's Special became one of Thoroughbred racing's millionaires the hard way, winning 21 of 41 lifetime races. Trained by Bill Mott, also a member of Fair Grounds' Racing Hall of Fame, he earned \$1,065,805 in his five-year racing career before retiring to stud. "He was the first 3-year-old I had and he took me to the Kentucky Derby," Mott said. Taylor's Special had a banner year in 1984. The Kentucky-bred son of Hawkin's Special out of Berre's Gold by Espea, won the Grade I Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland and the Grade III Louisiana Derby, Black Gold Handicap and Risen Star Stakes, all at Fair Grounds. The 14-time stakes winner then went on to take the 1985 Pelleteri Breeders' Cup Handicap at Fair Grounds and Count Fleet Handicap at Oaklawn, the 1986 River City Handicap at Churchill Downs, two runnings of the Isaac Murphy in 1986-87 at Arlington Park and the Grade II Washington Park Handicap at Arlington in 1987, his final triumph. "He was an incredibly fast horse from six to seven furlongs," said Mott. "He was durable." In two runnings of the Breeders' Cup Sprint, Taylor's Special finished fifth in 1986, and in his final start of his career, finished sixth in 1987. In 1987, Taylor's Special became the third Mott-trained horse to reach \$1 million in earnings. Mott said the bay great grandson of Bold Ruler was difficult to train and had to be saddled on the walk because he would kick, paw and would never settle if he were saddled in the paddock stall. Taylor's

Special may have been a handful in the paddock, but on the racetrack he was all business, Mott said he was a horse that "exercise boys don't like to get on, but jockeys love to ride." He just loved to run. Alfred and Bunny Biren bought Taylor's Special in the spring of 1994 from Murmur Farm in Darlington, Md.

### **Tenacious**

#### **Chestnut Colt 1954**

#### **Challedon-Dorothy B. Jr.**

Bred and owned by Mrs. Joe W. Brown and trained by John B. Theall. One of the most popular and durable campaigners ever to perform in New Orleans, Tenacious won 11 stakes at the Fair Grounds, including three runnings of the Louisiana Handicap, two New Orleans Handicaps and the 1957 Thanksgiving Handicap. He placed in six other stakes, including the Withers and Dwyer. Ridden by local favorite Ray Broussard, also a member of Fair Grounds' Racing Hall of Fame, Tenacious retired with a record of 112 starts, 20 wins, 16 seconds, and 17 thirds. He died Dec. 17, 1967 at Spendthrift Farm in Kentucky and is memorialized with a marker in the Fair Grounds infield.

### **Richard Ten Broeck**

#### **1811-1892**

Richard Ten Broeck left an indelible mark on American racing as the owner of Lexington, the legendary Kentucky race horse, and as proprietor of Metairie Race Course in New Orleans. Under his management, Metairie became the preeminent race track in America in the decade before the War Between the States. As a racing promoter he had no equal. His greatest promotion of Metairie was the interstate stakes race known as the Great State Post Stake on April 1, 1854. Ten Broeck was also the first American to demonstrate the prowess of the American racehorse on the English Turf. His name began to appear in race reports in 1843, when he raced horses at the Valdez Race Course in Havana, Cuba. In 1847, he became manager of the Bingaman Course, across the river from New Orleans in Algiers, while overseeing the Bascombe Course at Mobile and acquiring an interest in Metairie. In 1851, Ten Broeck bought full control of the track through a joint stock company he formed. He raised purses that drew horses from Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, and Missouri; he renovated the grandstand; and he encouraged New Orleans's social elite and especially women to support racing by offering lavish facilities. The Great State Post Stake -- a marathon event of four-mile heats, the winner of which would be the horse to win two straight heats -- was a triumph of promotion that drew thousands of spectators. Lexington, who was purchased by a syndicate headed by Ten Broeck prior to the event, won from the Louisiana-bred Lecomte and two others.

### **Tiffany Lass**

#### **Dark Bay or Brown Filly 1983**

#### **Bold Forbes-Sally Stark**

Owned by Aaron U. Jones and trained by Laz Barrera. In her brief, injury-shortened career, Tiffany Lass proved to be one of the brightest stars to flash across the Fair Grounds finish line. In her undefeated 3-year-old season, Tiffany Lass was four-for-four at the Fair Grounds, including impressive victories in the Davona Dale and Fair Grounds Oaks. From there she went on to triumph in Oaklawn Park's Fantasy Stakes and finished her storybook year by winning the Grade I Kentucky Oaks, thus cementing her hold on the 1986 Eclipse Award as the nation's top 3-year-old filly. The Tiffany Lass Stakes for 3-year-old fillies is run at Fair Grounds each January in her honor. Tiffany Lass' career totals were 10 starts, with eight wins, a second, and a third and total earnings of \$534,943.

### **Tippity Witchet**

#### **Bay Colt 1915**

#### **Broomstick-Lady Frivoles**

Bred by Harry Payne Whitney. Winner of 14 races as a 2-year-old, Tippity Witchet was rated among the top juveniles in the country. After subsequent failures as a stakes performer, Tippity Witchet entered the claiming ranks and became one of the most popular horses ever to campaign at the Fair Grounds. Trained by New Orleanian Lionel Bauer, Tippity Witchet won races at distances ranging from six furlongs to 1 1/2 miles including the 1921 New Year's Handicap. Tippity Witchet made his last start on Feb. 1, 1929. In his career he started 266 times, with 78 wins, 52 seconds and 42 thirds.

### **Harry E. Trotsek**

#### **1912-1997**

Born in Cicero, Ill., this former jockey took out his trainer's license in 1931 and for the next 55 years was one of America's most respected conditioners. He trained for such noted owners as Hasty House Farms, A. B. Hancock and Edward Seltzer. In his career, Trotsek saddled nearly 90 stakes winners and four champions including Oil Capitol, Hasty Road, the filly Moccasin, and 1954 turf champion Stan. Other prominent stakes winners include Niarkos, Summer Solstice, Royal Villa, and Ribbon, dam of 1988 Louisiana Derby winner and champion Risen Star. Trotsek was a Fair Grounds regular for many years and trained three New Orleans Handicap winners: Oil Capitol in 1952, Sea O'Erin in 1955 and Pool Court in 1980. Other Trotsek-trained winners of Fair Grounds stakes include Bronze Points, Vibro Vibes, Batonnier and Famed Princess. In 1984, Trotsek was elected to the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

**Jack Van Berg**  
**1936-**

Born in Columbus, Neb., and the son of trainer Marion Van Berg, Jack has saddled more winners than any other trainer in history. As his father before him, Jack made his initial impact on racing as a shrewd handler of claiming horses. This talent enabled him to be Fair Grounds' leading trainer ten times in a 12-year period, from 1965-77. In 1976 Van Berg saddled an unbelievable 496 winners and later in 1987, he sent out his 5,000th career winner -- both accomplishments an American record. In the mid-1970s he turned more of his attention to acquiring and training stakes-caliber horses. The results of this were Preakness winner Gate Dancer and all-time leading money earner at the time Alysheba, who won the Kentucky Derby. Van Berg won the 1984 Eclipse Award as the nation's top trainer and the following year joined his father in the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

**Marion H. Van Berg**  
**1986-1971**

Starting out as a livestock dealer and farmer, this Nebraskan native became one of the most successful owner/trainers in American horse racing history. "Mr. Van" led the nation's owners in races won no less than 14 times, including 11 straight years from 1960-70. He also led the nation's owners in earnings four times. Van Berg was a regular at Fair Grounds for many years and always was among the leaders in both trainer and owner standings. Though most of his 4,691 career winners came from the claiming ranks, his distinctive yellow silks with the purple "V" were carried by Fair Grounds record-holder and stakes winner Mike's Red. Marion Van Berg is a member of the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

**C. W. (Cracker) Walker**  
**1933-1991**

In a three-decade career, this genial Texan became one of the most proficient conditioners of claiming horses in Louisiana racing history. Walker's trademark cowboy hat became a fixture in the Fair Grounds winner's circle, particularly in the period between 1984-1989. During that time, Walker won four training titles and was runner-up once. His 75 winners saddled in the 1984-85 season were the most in any season during the 1980s. "Cracker" also won a training title at Louisiana Downs in 1977, and his 800-plus career victories there is a track record. Walker's stakes winners included Mr. Brilliant, Nalet, City Council II, Hoppet the Choppet and Nettie Cometti.

**Thomas Jefferson Wells**  
**1806-1863**

In the 1850s when Thoroughbreds first raced over the track at Fair Grounds, Thomas Jefferson Wells was among those to compete there. His contemporaries were such Turf luminaries as Duncan Kenner, Adam Bingaman, William Minor, and Ambrose Lecomte, all of whom were among the great sportsmen and horsemen of the antebellum era, when New Orleans was the center of horse racing. His achievements with the racemare and producer Reel in the 1840s, and then in the 1850s with her son Lecomte, nemesis of the great racehorse and stallion Lexington, are at the foundation of modern racing and breeding. Wells ventured into racing in 1832. In time, he built a nearly unparalleled racing empire on the Louisiana Turf. He had a fondness for fillies, and when their racing careers were over he bred them to only the best sires, thus founding a formidable stud said to be the largest in the South. In 1839, he purchased from James Jackson of Alabama the filly Reel, from the first full crop of Glencoe, for racing purposes. From Opelousas to New Orleans, she demonstrated her prowess on the race track, winning seven races in eight starts and nearly equaling (7:33) Fashion's record for four miles when that one defeated Boston (7:32 1-2). She was retired to Wells' stud in 1843. Wells died in 1863 near Hempstead, Texas.

**David E. Whited**  
**1942-**

Whited was born in Houston, Texas, and was around horses since his early childhood. He started riding match races all over Texas at age 9. When he was 14, he went to Rillito Park in Tucson, Ariz., and galloped horses until he became eligible to be a jockey at age 16. His first mount, a filly named Aeronef, was his first winner at Rillito on Nov. 8, 1958. In 1967 and 1968 Whited was the nation's fourth leading rider in number of wins. Whited won three consecutive Fair Grounds riding titles from 1968-70, capturing the 1969 New Orleans Handicap aboard Miracle Hill. His biggest thrill was winning the 1975 Arkansas Derby aboard Promised City in his hometown of Hot Springs. Whited, who won 3,784 races, also captured riding titles at Keeneland, Churchill Downs, Arlington Park, Hawthorne and Sportsman's Park. He established a riding record at Fair Grounds in 1967, winning 107 races in 71 days. He also won the Kentucky Oaks in 1970 aboard Lady Vi-E and guided Staunch Avenger to many stakes victories including the 1971 Sapling Stakes.

**Roger W. Wilson**  
**1908-1972**

A native of Normanger, Texas, who later made his home in New Orleans, Roger Wilson made his fortune in the oil business as president and director of J. Ray McDermott and Company, Inc. He made his bow as a Thoroughbred owner on Jan. 1, 1954, winning a two-furlong dash at Fair Grounds with Indian Light. During the intervening years, Wilson channeled heavy investments into racing. His first stakes winner was Hill Country in 1957. He was co-owner of 1963 champion 2-year-old Hurry to Market. His horses won multiple stakes at Fair Grounds, including three consecutive runnings of the Thanksgiving Handicap

(1961-63), the 1971 Lecomte Stakes with Helio Rise and the 1969 Bayou Handicap with Ayuda. The Stall-Wilson Turf Course at Fair Grounds is co-named in his honor.

### **Whirlaway**

#### **Chestnut Colt 1938**

#### **Blenheim II-Dustwhirl**

Bred and owned by Warren Wright, Sr., trained by Ben Jones. The first of Calumet Farm's galaxy of champions, Whirlaway was the top 2-year-old of 1940, winning the Saratoga Special and Hopeful Stakes. The following year "Mr. Longtail," as he was known, became the fifth Thoroughbred to win the coveted Triple Crown, setting a stakes record in the Kentucky Derby under Eddie Arcaro. He won four more stakes that year and was voted the 1941 Horse of the Year. In 1942, Ben Jones brought Whirlaway to Fair Grounds to run in the inaugural Louisiana Handicap, a race created especially for him. With Wendall Eads in the irons, Whirlaway won what has become the track's fourth oldest stakes race. Whirlaway's career totals were 60 starts with 32 wins, 15 seconds, and nine thirds for earnings of \$561,161. He was elected to the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., in 1959.

### **Vester R. (Tennessee) Wright**

#### **1921-1966**

In his brief and meteoric race track career, this son of a horse farm manager rose from groom to become one of the nation's top Thoroughbred trainers. Wright trained for the famed T.A. Grissom stable from 1954-1961 and during that time was the leading trainer at Fair Grounds four times. He was either second or third among local trainers in his four other years with the Grissom horses. Known as a "horseman's horseman," Wright trained such stakes winners as Money Broker, Roman Line, City Line, Lurullah, Shan Pac, Shoerullah and Reaping Right. His 19-year career record showed more than \$5 million in earnings from 1,872 winners, highlighted by winning seven races on one card at Oaklawn Park.

### **Yorktown**

#### **Chestnut Colt 1957**

#### **Battlefield-Joodles**

This son of Battlefield overcame numerous physical problems throughout his career to become a winner of ten races from only 22 starts and win one of the most memorable runnings of the New Orleans Handicap. Unraced at 2 because of splint trouble, he established himself quickly at three, winning five races and finishing second in the Louisiana Derby in a season again cut short by injury. His various injuries robbed him of any success in his 4-year-old season, but he returned with a vengeance as a 5-year-old. After winning a pair of six-furlong sprints, Yorktown was considered to be a bit player in the envisioned dramatic duel between Kentucky Derby and Preakness champ Carry Back and local favorite Orleans Dodge for the 1962 New Orleans Handicap. Yorktown proved experts wrong with a strong stretch run to capture the race, with Hillsborough second and Carry Back third. Also in his wake was Tony Graff, and he thus avenged his nose defeat to that one in the Louisiana Derby two years earlier. Yorktown also triumphed in the 1962 John B. Campbell Handicap at Bowie before retiring to stand at Spendthrift Farm. His 10 wins in 22 starts accounted for earnings of \$154,335.

### **Anthony L. Zuppardo**

His most noteworthy horse was Zuppardo's Prince, a top stallion in Louisiana for several years.

### **Marie G. Krantz Fair Grounds Lifetime Achievement Award**

*Presented by Fair Grounds in recognition of individuals who have contributed substantially to the Thoroughbred industry in our area over the course of their lifetime.*

2003 – Marie G. Krantz

2004 – Mervin H. Muniz, Jr.

2005 – JoAn B. Stewart