



newsletter

room for expansion ~ a means of support

March/April 2012

Industry Icon Dies in Arizona

The following text is as it was prepared by Scott's family.

James Scott Simpson of Bozeman, MT passed away February 29, 2012, but not until he'd completed nine holes of golf in the desert near his winter home in Wickenburg, Arizona.

He was born March 27, 1933 in Prescott, Arizona, to Kenneth and Helen Simpson. The family soon moved to San Diego, California. At the age of 13 he learned to fly, sometimes washing airplanes in exchange for flying lessons.

In later years he became a Certified Flight Instructor and served as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army National Guard, receiving various awards for marksmanship. He also worked in the aerospace industry at General Dynamics Aeronautics. Around this time he met and married Evelyn Moore, with whom he reared five children.

He acquired his first horse at the age of 18, establishing the direction the rest of his life was to take. He became skilled first as a cowboy and rodeo rider, then as a horseshoer, graduating with his best friend, Mike Williams, from the California Polytechnic horseshoeing school in 1959.

After 17 years as a professional farrier, he founded the Horseshoeing School at Montana State University in 1970. He later became the instructor of farrier science at Walla Walla Community College in Washington, and at his own Northwestern School of Horseshoeing.

During this time he remained



The late J. Scott Simpson, center, flanked by Danny Ward, left and Walt Taylor, right, at the 1988 AFA demonstration. contrib, photo

active as a horseshoer and horseman, working in virtually every activity and discipline in the horse industry, including Thoroughbred racing, harness racing, hunter jumpers, dressage horses, working cow and ranch horses, pro rodeo, and as a horse show judge.

He served as president of the American Farrier's Association, and received the AFA's Outstanding Educator, Outstanding Clinician and Outstanding Journalism awards. In 1999 he was inducted into the International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. His teaching and expertise took him to places such as Australia, Hawaii, Japan, Russia, Alaska and Canada, as well as much of the continental U.S.

He was the author of numerous books on horseshoeing including, *The Contemporary Horseshoer: Shoeing*

Horses in the Twenty-First Century. He also wrote numerous articles in journals and magazines ranging from *Western Horseman* to *Plane & Pilot*.

He also helped to establish certification for professional farriers, developed the "Eagle Eye" principal of shaping a horseshoe to an individual horse's foot, and invented numerous implements for farriers, horse-men, and aviators.

Scott was a man of wildly diverse interests, whose passions included tennis, golf, cross-country skiing, fly fishing, big game hunting, and music, he being a gifted singer. With the Last Chance Cowboy Up, a collection of traditional cowboy songs that has enjoyed much popularity.

A memorial service is planned for the end of May.

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A Message from the Prez....

(This month's newsletter consists only of the information pertaining to the upcoming Northern California Classic (NCC) and the passing of another industry icon - J. Scott Simpson -ed.)

The NCC is approaching and anticipation rises. This year's event will be one that may never be equaled. It is a rare and unique opportunity for any association to have the privilege of honoring one of its most iconic members.

In our industry Jay Sharp was just such a man. His name summons up many thoughts ideas and images.

Icon - can be defined as an important and enduring symbol or as one who is the object of great attention and devotion; an idol- this was Jay.

Pillar - can be defined as one who occupies a central or responsi-

ble position or as a slender, free-standing, vertical means of support.- some would say Jay was a pillar that horseshoers leaned on.

Methodical - Jay had a systemic and organized approach that was careful, deliberate and at times, painstaking. Rarely did he begin anything without a desired result in the back of his mind. He lived this concept daily.

Legacy - meaning something of value handed down from a previous generation to the next generation. That is what he left for us. He instituted an example for the rest of us to follow.

Following this example can be difficult - especially for those who have to take the lead, especially in the occupation of being a modern farrier. But we can lead -by hard work, perseverance and cooperation as we carve out our own legacy.

One final word – *Synergy*- The interaction of two or more agents or forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects. Two can do as much as three if their energies are pooled together. Strong ropes are made up of tiny delicate fibers bonded & pulling together.

I want us to pull together as an Association. We need sponsors & volunteers as well as contestants to make this event special. Let's concentrate on putting energy and time into making this, not just AFA Chapter #1, but Association #1. It is totally achievable. All we need is input and participation. Awards are gratifying, Incentives are rewarding. But participation...produces.

Let us jump onto what those like Jay & Scott have set in motion and make this association all that it can be. Buzz Lightyear put it perfectly - "Infinity and beyond!"

Thanx....Chisham

NCC Info:Don Gustafson 650-888-7464