

CELEBRATING

50 YEARS OF BREEDING AMERICAN QUARTER HORSES

GERALD KORELL/BAR THREE STABLES

RIVERTON, WYOMING

In 1955, Gerald Korell and his father, Jake, were horse traders looking to upgrade the quality of their herd. They purchased their first American Quarter Horse mares at a sale in Gillette, Wyoming. Gerald was only 13 at the time, but that trip marked the beginning of the Bar Three Stables legacy.

Bar Three Stables has always been a family affair. In 1978, Iva Thompson joined the family business as Gerald's wife, and in 1982, daughter Kathy was born. Gabriel Rach joined the family business in 2009 when he married Kathy.

Early in their career, the Korells focused on breeding and raising Quarter Horses for ranch work and timed events because Gerald was speed-horse inclined from birth.

When he was 12, Gerald's mother, Martha, allowed him to take "Toots" to the Fremont County Fair. Toots had only been around cattle, but on that day, she faced a starting gate. After a third-place finish in the first race, they won the second race handily.

"I was on Cloud 9; I had never seen that much money in my whole life," Gerald says.

It was no surprise that the Korells shifted their operation to producing racehorses when Wyoming gained pari-mutuel betting. Gerald began training and racing homebred as well as outside horses. This eventually led to the production of barrel-racing horses, which is their athlete of choice today.

While the goals of their program have shifted in terms of performance area, one thing remains constant: Bar Three Stables seeks to stay true to its foundation of breeding Quarter Horse athletes with willing minds, exceptional conformation and superior physical ability.

"We were never a large-scale operation and never had any desire to raise sizeable foal crops," Gerald says. "We are firm believers in quality over quantity."

That quality has multiplied over the years, and several foundation mares have had a lasting impact through generations of performers.

Dora Hancock, a 1960 bay great-granddaughter of Joe Hancock out of Pick Up by Fred McCue, was a champion halter and western pleasure mare. She was crossed on the Korells' 1970 black stallion, Barjo Twist, a grandson of Return Copy. "Twister" earned race and performance Registers of Merit and AQHA points in heading, heeling, barrel racing and halter. He was half of the 1976 Wyoming state champion

chariot racing team, the 1981 Wyoming Quarter Horse Association high-point barrel racing horse and a rodeo winner into his late teens.

Dora Hancock and Barjo Twist also produced Isadora Bull, who was later bred to Smoke N Sparks to produce I Be A Barjo Belle, a 2006 black multiple champion 1D barrel racing mare and sister to 2013 College National Finals Rodeo barrel racing champion Let It Smoke. "Belle" is now a broodmare continuing to produce champion offspring.

Julias Extra, a 1981 bay Azure Te (TB) granddaughter out of Miss Julia by Sir Max, was a halter futurity champion and 1982 Wyoming Quarter Horse Association high-point halter mare in addition to winning the 1983 Diamond Classic Consolation race in a faster time than the finals. "Extra" produced multiple

champions in the barrel racing pen, one of whom was Julias Jewels, who was by Smoke N Sparks. "Julie" is a multiple 1D barrel-racing champion and set two arena records before retiring to the broodmare band.

Currently, Bar Three Stables stands Smoke N Sparks, a 1992 black stallion by renowned barrel-horse sire and racehorse Dash For Perks and out of Crazy Daisy by AQHA Superior Race Horse Shawne Bug. "Sparks" won the 1994 Kansas Futurity (G1), was second in the 1995 Easy Jet Handicap and fourth in the 1994 Remington Park Futurity (G1). Sparks has been

on the Equi-Stat Leading Barrel Horse Sire Top-20 list for many years. He has sired nearly 500 foals in 20 crops. His foals have gone on to earn Wrangler National Finals Rodeo qualifications, CNFR barrel-racing championships and National High School Finals Rodeo appearances.

The breeders' most recent top performer is Smoke N Sunshine, a 2010 palomino by Smoke N Sparks and out of Runaway Frenchgirl by Frenchmans Guy. "Shine," ridden by Kathy, won the 2016 Better Barrel Races world championship, the 2016 Bonus Race World Finals and the 2015 5-State Breeders Futurity, in addition to setting two arena records.

Bar Three Stables has made a name for its horses in disciplines from the ranch to the racetrack to the rodeo arena, with no sign of slowing down.

"I stay in the game because of hope," Gerald says. "There is a sense of anticipation and awe in waiting for the next foal crop and hoping that the horse of your dreams materializes in that stall."

