

Lawrence Barnes: Part 2

By Clyde and Samantha Connelly

Part 1: Although Lawrence Barnes was born in Missouri, his family moved to Oklahoma where Lawrence had many adventures, including roping a jack rabbit. In this article, Barnes' story continues when the family moves back to Missouri.

In 1928 the Barnes family moved back to Roy, in Douglas County, after Lawrence's grandfather, William Marion Barnes, became ill. His grandfather ran the Roy store, and Lawrence's dad, Lincoln, the eldest son, returned to take over the store for William Marion. Lawrence's grandfather died in April of that same year. After returning to Douglas County, Lawrence attended and graduated from Ava High School in 1932. He had the distinction of being the only player to be barred from representing his high school in any basketball contests, effective February 15, 1932, for the remainder of his senior season. It seems that in a hotly contested basketball game against arch rival Seymour, Lawrence got into an altercation with one of Seymour's star players, in which the Seymour player received a fractured jaw. After graduation from Ava High School, Lawrence went to Texas where he worked in the oil fields while also attending Stephen F. Austin University, at Nacogdoches. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in commerce and physical education. He then served four years in the Navy during World War II. After the war, he returned to Ava where he was the commerce and math instructor. He remained teaching at Ava High School until he retired in 1976.

The argument has been made that the fox trotting horse didn't originate in Douglas County but instead originated in Christian/Taney Counties. If that is true, then Highway 125 running south of Sparta is the golden corridor. At Sparta, Knial Kissee stood Old Ted and the Kissee Diamond. Two and a half miles south of Sparta is Oldfield, Mo., where B. Mills resided. B. Mills was the man who raised Nancy Ann F-166, who was the dam of Golden Rawhide and Lady Anne. Nancy Ann was an Old Ted daughter. Three and a half miles south of Oldfield is Chadwick, Mo., where J.C. Guerin stood Yellow Jacket F-175. The horsemen of Douglas, Christian, and Taney Counties still talk about how great this stallion was. If the number

of foals registered is an indication of a stallion's popularity, Yellow Jacket had three times the number of foals registered in the Association than Ozark Golden King. Nine miles south of Chadwick is Garrison, Mo., where Orton N. Mitchell stood Mitchell's Trigger F-1459. Mitchell's Trigger's blood found its way into the modern day fox trotting horse when he sired Jody Bland, who was the dam of Zane's Go Boy. Thirty-two miles south of Garrison is Protém, Mo., where the famed Blankenship Diamond stood. These are the types of horses that the Charter Members wanted to record and preserve their bloodlines by starting the registry.

Sometime around 1954, Lawrence went to Wash Blankenship at Protém and purchased Vicki F-1260, who was a daughter of Blankenship Diamond. Lawrence thought so highly of Blankenship Diamond that his opinion was he was a better horse than his maternal brother, Golden Governor. Vicki was Lawrence's foundation mare, and she became the matriarch of his broodmare band. In the fall of 1964, Lawrence visited his old friend, B. Mills. While there, Mr. Mills showed him a yellow colt that was out of a Yellow Jacket mare, and was sired by Golden Rawhide. Lawrence bought the colt because he had the bloodlines that Lawrence appreciated.

Lawrence named him Gold Man. When Gold Man was fourteen years old, the REA placed a light pole with a guide wire attached to it in Gold Man's lot. Gold Man was running and hit the guide wire full tilt. The guide wire broke his back, and the horse had to be put down. One of the many good mares he sired in his lifetime was Princess Joy, owned by Donald and Carol Cunningham. Princess Joy was the dam of Missouri Outlaw C, Missouri Missy C, Miss

Missouri C. and many others. Lawrence bred Vicki to Mitchell's Trigger and raised Vicki's Flossey. He then bred Vicki to Gold Man and got Vicki 3. These three mares were the only mares that Lawrence wouldn't ever sell.

Lawrence Barnes was a pioneer, educator, businessman, and horseman. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his service to the Association and for his contributions to the breed. Over the years Lawrence stood at stud Rambling Red, Gold Man, Zane's Dude, Major L, Old Paint, and Vicki's Redman. These horses produced a large number of foals, and Lawrence raised many, many foals himself. Lawrence had several anecdotes, and he had a habit of hitting his index finger on the table top for emphasis when telling them. One of his anecdotes was that a foal raiser would never commit suicide. When asked why, Lawrence would bang his index finger against the top of the table and say, "Why, because they are always waiting for their next crop of foals to be born!"

Sincere appreciation to Roy Brown, Glend Dale Robertson, and the Douglas County Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., for supplying information for this article.



Photo courtesy of Clyde and Samantha Connelly.