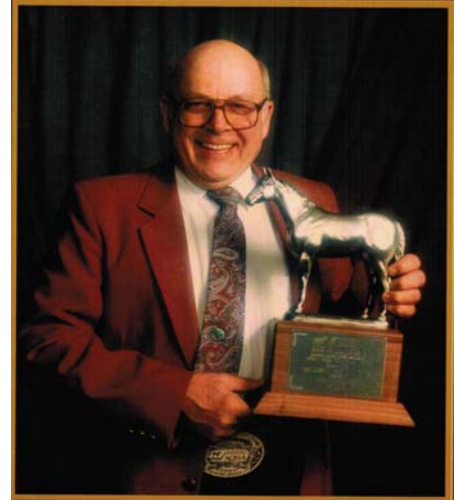
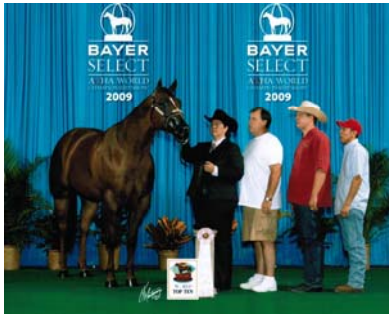


## Dr. Howard Koch (HK)

“I like all animals and most people” were the words Howard Koch used a lot. He lived by them his whole life, from bringing sick and starving strays as a youngster to bringing home more odd animals in later years. Didn’t every family need a buffalo, or an exotic steer or a few hedge hogs? The only other thing he wanted was a wallaby but he never got one. But that didn’t happen when it came to horses. If he saw one he liked, he put his mind to work at acquiring it. Best case in point, SR Magic Man. He saw him in 1993 and told Jeff Alexander he really liked him, which meant he wanted him. His wish came true at the World Show in 1993. Jeff called and said the horse was for sale. Howard flew out, walked up with a check and the rest is history. HK bought quite a few of his horses sight unseen. He bought both Zan Parr Audi and



Dr Cool Cash that way. Audi was number 13 in Carol Rose’s sale--that was a lucky number for the Kochs. He also paid \$13,000 for her. Zan Parr Audi went on to win 3 high points and a truck. He figured Dr Cool Cash would be a good one because he had “Doctor” in his name. HK was right because Dr Cool Cash was the 2009 high point halter gelding.

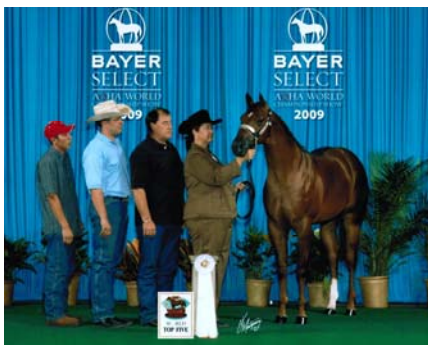


Dr Cool Cash

Howard always had a plan when he bought something. He traded 2 horses plus some money for “Best to Be Silent” when she was a baby. He told LeaAnn the horse was eligible for a baby futurity in December where first place paid \$25,000. He bought the filly right out of the pasture, barely halter broke, at the end of October. It all worked out—she won the futurity and went on to be Reserve World Champion.



Best to be Silent



HK Kids Playmate

But, the one he was most proud of was HK Kids Playmate. He believed in “Bobbie” from the day she was born, telling everyone she was the best he had ever raised. He was right again. Bobbie was Reserve World Champion as a yearling and high point open mare as a 3 year old.



When HK passed away in April 2009, Chris Arentsen decided he would “win it” for Doc. We know he was with Chris every time he went in the pen. We can only imagine how many times HK told the halter group in the sky “I bred and owned a high point halter horse.” Doc would be so honored by this induction he wouldn’t know where to start thanking people, but we know he would have a few special “thank you” comments. One would be to Jeff Alexander who talked Doc into showing a few weekends, which turned into any day in 1993 that had a show within 700 miles, which turned into a national high point award. Another would be to Mark Niebrugge

who always made him laugh, from their first meeting on. Ask Mark about his fence jumping at Gordyville.

Next, to Chris Arentsen, with whom HK had a special fatherly bond. Before HK had met Chris in person, but called him to pick up a horse for him. When Chris asked what he wanted done with the horse, HK told him to show him. “I heard you were a clean cut, hard working, up and coming trainer, so prove it. If I don’t like the job, I’ll let you know.” He like him well enough that he gave him two of his Congress champions to start his breeding operation. He always knew Chris would make it to the top. Next, to Mary Hannagan—you and your family were special to HK. He showed his first and last horse show at Gordyville. I’m sure there are many other people he would like to thank or have a few things to say. Not many people knew he grew up very poor, or carried a straight “A” average from high school thru college and was class valedictorian. There was no money for college so he worked 10 years before returning. Upon graduation he was known to put in 8-10 hours at the clinic, run a few hundred head of feeder cattle at home—all while being on call 24 hours a day. HK had a true zest for life, something we all miss everyday.

LeaAnn Koch &  
Mary Hannagan

