

2014 UPHA Tom Moore Hall Of Fame Award RONNIE GRAHAM

The following bio appeared in the awards booklet Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the UPHA/ASHA/AHHS Convention in Savannah, Georgia.



Gary Garone presented Ronnie Graham with his hall of fame award Saturday night in Savannah.

Ronald Graham was born on August 21, 1939 in Quinlan, Texas, 250 miles northeast of Dallas. He moved to Dallas in 1941 for his family to work in the defense plant. He lived with people that had an old country store and when he was six years old, he began working at the Mesquite Rodeo and Auction.

At the age of 14, he took a job doing electrical maintenance at the State Fair of Texas and did so until he graduated from high school in 1957. Following graduation, he rode bulls at rodeos and raced horses. Shortly after that he bought a piece of property with a little house and a barn on it which was right across the street from Luke Overly. Luke unfortunately passed away and his brother Tom took over the barn.

Later on Tom moved his operation to Jim Bray's Wild Wood Farm. Ray Smith hired Pep Peppiatt to train horses for Nan-Dot Stables and when they were moving Pep's horses from Atlanta, the van overturned in Shreveport, LA. They asked to get a vet and fly to the wreck. Ronnie stayed with the horses 24-7 until they were all well and healed.

Then they wanted Ronnie full time and that is how it all began. He followed Tom at Wild Wood Farm after he took the job at Buffalo Tool and Dye. Then he moved on to the Old Reverie Knoll Farm, renamed Dream Hill and later became Silver Lining. After the death of Mr. Smith he spent a couple of years with Earl Dykes and Don and Lee Roby, then on to Barlite Farm with Lee Shipman until they dispersed and Lee and Ronnie went to Silver Brook. Lee eventually moved on to Andeck Farm and Ronnie stayed with Debbie Foley until 1979, and at that time he bought a farm in Finchville, Ky.

Then in 1986 he went to work for Frank Gearheart in New Jersey. Following his death, Ronnie worked for Doreen and David Weston until 2002, then on to Seen Oaks, Fish and Fun and Ronnie has been at Ruth Gimpel's since 2005. In his career he has trained over 250 World Champions.