

Before we introduce the Hall of Fame inductees I would like to share a little history concerning the beginnings of the North Dakota Quarter Horse Association.

54 years ago, at the 1960 Winter Show in Valley City, Ardis Parks Taylor and Ted Ressler met to discuss the idea of starting a North Dakota Quarter Horse Association. They exchanged ideas, and agreed to meet again during the Red River Valley Fair in July. It was then that they decided to hold a meeting in September in Jamestown. That meeting was well attended by Quarter Horse enthusiasts, primarily breeders, from around the state, and before it ended, they had made plans to have the first NDQHA organizational meeting in Bismarck on Saturday, Nov 26 at the Municipal Country Club. They immediately started selling memberships to the association, and by the time the meeting was held, there were nearly ninety people who had paid membership dues of \$5.00. They elected directors, approved the by-laws, and decided to have a monthly newsletter called the *North Dakota Roundup*. The men who were elected as directors included Lester Anderson from Leonard, John Christman from Lemmon, SD, Alvin Gabbert from Lefor, Ted Ressler from Mandan, Wesley Stensatter from Fargo, Harvey Taylor from Towner, and Kenny Trauger from Menoken. After the meeting the board met to elect officers for the coming year. Lester Anderson was named the first president, Kenny Trauger, the first vice president and Ardis Parks Taylor, the first secretary-treasurer. Ted Ressler was named the AQHA National Director from ND. And with that, the association was off and running...

One other bit of trivia - In the Oct/Nov 1961 issue of the *ND Roundup* there was information concerning the 2nd annual meeting and banquet to be held at the Bismarck Country Club on December 9th. Members were encouraged to return the banquet reservation form and indicate their choice of ham or chicken. For us, this year, the choices were chicken or roast beef, and the cost was \$25. Guess what the cost was in 1961? \$2.00 per plate!

Oh, and by the way, Harold Schafer from Bismarck picked up the entire tab for the first meeting and banquet in 1960, and Gordon Trusty from Mandan did the same thing in 1961. They were both given lifetime memberships for all their support and help in getting the association off the ground. Now, I would bet, if any of you want to pick up the tab for tonight, you would also be awarded a lifetime membership. It's something to think about. John Hovde?? 😊