

Ardis and Harvey Taylor

Harvey (Harve) Taylor was born and raised near Towner, ND. Ardis (Ringdahl) Taylor was born and raised in Aliceton Township, near Lisbon, ND. Each was born into a family heritage where cattle were the mainstay of the ranch. The need for good horses to work cattle brought about a passion for a good cowhorse.

They met in 1960 while attending and leading organizational meetings for the North Dakota Quarter Horse Association. Harve was elected as one of the first directors of the NDQHA, while Ardis served as the first secretary/treasurer and editor of the monthly newsletter. Harve and Ardis married April 2, 1962 and continued to raise Hereford cattle and American Quarter Horses near Lisbon, ND. Ardis taught school for 30 years in Lisbon, Sheldon and Forman.

The direction of their Quarter Horse breeding program came directly from their love of cattle. There was no better way to work cows than from the back of a good horse. Harve and Ardis both claimed to be cattlemen first, horsemen second. Ardis was always more interested in "what's between the ears" of a horse while Harve focused on the horse's looks. As with all good marriages, they came to a compromise. Regardless of how pretty a horse may have been, Harve decided if Ardis said it didn't have enough between the ears, it went down the road. Ultimately, this left them with a herd of really handy, good looking cowhorses that excelled in many different areas.

While the majority of their horses earned their keep working cows far from any recognized arena or teaching 4-H kids the basics of showing, some of their performing horses included:

- Mark Frost Bailey ("Junior"), appendix registration palomino gelding by Marcus Bailey, shown by Ardis, earned Open Performance Register of Merit in 1954.
- Elbe Doc, 1978 chestnut stud by Clark's Doc Bar out of Linda Snippy, by Sugarfoot Snip earned \$276.80 in NCHA Earnings.
- Scottish Tobitha, 1981 bay mare by Scotch String, out of Miss Smooth Shi by Super Smooth. The dam was purchased by Ardis and Harve while in foal. The resulting filly was broke and trained by Ardis, later sold and went on to win 1983 Wisconsin Quarter Horse Western Pleasure Stakes, earn Open and Amateur Performance ROMs, Superiors in Open and Amateur Western Pleasure and place 7th in 1984 Amateur High Point Western Pleasure.
- Discover The Magic, 1987 chestnut stud by Major Bonanza, out of Pima's Gal by Pima Country. Earned AQHA points in Open Reining.

Ardis has fond memories of the start of the NDQHA as well as showing back "in the good, old days". Ardis has said, "Today's show outfits cost more than our old cars, single axle trailers and horses put together. We were ready to show when we put on clean jeans and wiped the manure off of our boots."

Harve passed away in 2005 after battling cancer. Ardis lives at home on the ranch near Lisbon, ND with their son, Miles.