

Alvin “Gabby” Gabbert

Born July 24, 1921, Alvin ‘Gabby’ Gabbert served on the first Board of Directors of the North Dakota Quarter Horse Association. He lived his entire life on the land his father homesteaded west of Lefor, North Dakota. In 1950 he purchased the family farm and changed it from a farming operation to a ranching operation.

Alvin bred and raised Quarter Horses and registered Black Angus cattle. During the 1950s and 1960s, he successfully trained and showed rodeo and performance horses across the United States and Canada. He was regarded by many as one of the best horsemen in the state. Eventually he built an indoor arena, calling it Gabby’s Training Center. At his training center he held roping and horsemanship clinics that benefitted many young people.

In addition to serving as a board member and vice-president of the North Dakota Quarter Horse Association, Alvin was president of the North Dakota Cutting Horse Association, a charter member of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association member, and an AQHA approved judge. He was a recipient of the Horseman of the Year award from the Red River Horse Breeders Association, and in 2005 he was inducted into the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Those who knew and worked with Alvin truly admired him. In addition to being a great all-around horseman, he was a soft-spoken, patient man who was never too busy to help or visit with others and share his knowledge.

Alvin married P. Dorine Graham on November 12, 1945 in Dickinson. They had three children. Alvin died September 26, 1969.