



Howard E. Peterson, best known as "Zip" - with his two sons at his side, died peacefully at the Southern AZ V.A. hospital on May 30, 2017 from Septic Shock from infection, and Acute Renal Failure after a 5 yr. battle with Dementia, Blindness caused by Glaucoma, severe bouts of depression and various illnesses and lengthy hospitalizations since 2011. He was 86. He is survived by sons, Troy A. Peterson and Lee R. Peterson, a step-brother, Myles S. Peterson, and grandchildren - Justin Peterson, Catherine Peterson (Troy) and Garrett Peterson (Lee).

Preceding him in death were his mother Almira Gertrude Peterson in 1978 and father, Howard Russell Peterson in 1995, his sister Gertrude "Sis" Peterson in 2001, and his wife of almost 62 years in 2011, Virginia "Jinny" W. Peterson.

Born in Plymouth, MA on Oct 19, 1930, "Bud" as he was called by his dad, "Buddy" by his sister who loved him dearly, was an active and athletic young man, excelling in ice hockey as a goalie and baseball as a catcher at Wilbraham Academy, a college prep school, in Wilbraham, MA. It was during these years that the nickname "Zip" stuck and he ended up following his passions and dreams of becoming a famous horseman and cowboy.

He began working at Cimarron Ranch in Peekskill, NY, becoming a wrangler, rodeo cowboy, trick rider, and all-around great guy who was well liked by all he met and associated with, especially the kids. He caught the attention of a beautiful cowgirl nicknamed, "Jinny," an equally passionate horse person also working at the Cimarron Ranch. They married on Dec 2nd, 1950 and headed for Tucson, AZ shortly thereafter, settling in the Tanque Verde area that same month where they worked dude ranches and summer camps for Brownie Cote (of Tanque Verde Ranch fame). Zip and Jinny loved to travel and rodeo, they drove tens of thousands of miles together in the off seasons to rodeos around the country and even competing in the World Championships at Boston Garden and Madison Square Garden in the Calf Roping events. It was also a time in which men were drafted and served. Zip was drafted in 1954 and served honorably for two years, spending most of it in Europe. Returning home, he gained financial assistance through his GI Bill, and attended horseshoeing school at Michigan State University.

They bought their first home/"ranch" in Dec 1963 shortly after Troy was born and began to settle down after 13 years of fun and adventure, a beautiful place with panoramic views of the Catalina's and Rincon's and no neighbors within a half mile and dirt roads all-around.

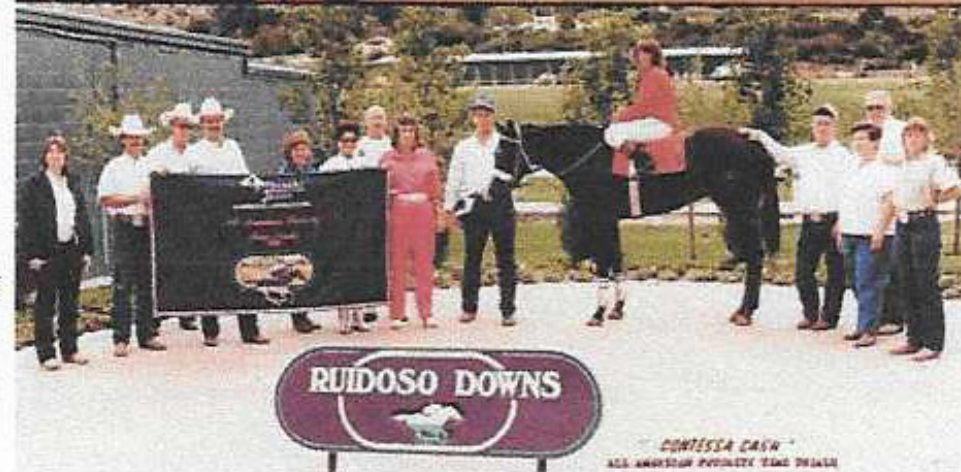
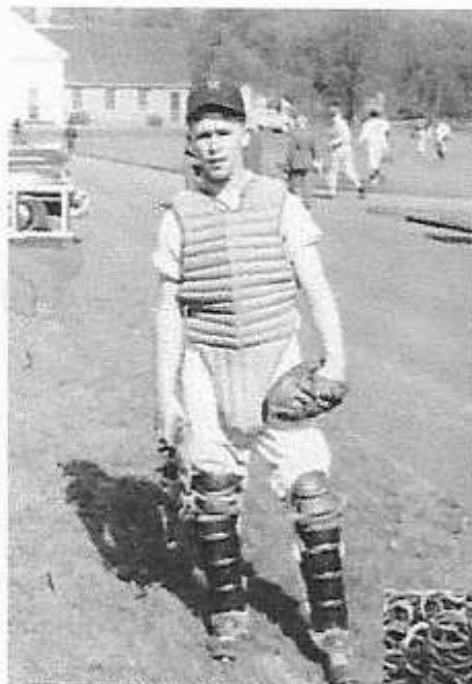
Zip's outgoing personality and infectious laugh made him well-liked by many, and his athletic ability that followed him into adulthood led to an incredible 64 yr. horse career. He became a master coal-forged farrier/horseshoer, who's been described as a "legend" in that craft throughout all of Southern AZ. He and Jinny established the largest horse 4H club in Arizona, Tanque Verde 4H. He went on to establish a horseshoeing school extension program for the U of A, becoming "Professor Zip" in the late 60's/early 70's. (cont'd on back)

It was then that Zip changed direction and began training race horses becoming a very talented race horse trainer, given his master farrier background and the ability to judge "soundness" in horses. His career in horseracing ultimately led him to qualifying for and racing in the World's Richest Quarter Horse Race, the All-American Futurity in 1989 with the first female jockey to ride in the history of the All-American Futurity, onboard. He continued training and racing as his boys became men and had families of their own with Lee working with and staying the closest to his Dad throughout the racing years while Troy left at 17 y.o. making a career of the US Army, returning in 2002 ultimately needing to help and then care for his aging parents as the years and hard ranch life took their toll.

With Jinny's passing in Oct 2011, Zip slipped into several serious health challenges. Without the love of his life, stalwart companion, and the ultimate strength behind this legend of a man he failed mentally and physically very quickly.

Through thick and thin, during their nearly 62 yr. marriage they never wavered from living, breathing, and even lacking eating and sleeping for the LOVE of their horses.

In the end, Jinny and Zip both had professions of faith, giving their lives to Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior by all accounts on June 1st and July 1st respectfully, in 2011.



**"Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never have to work a day in your life."
Mark Twain**