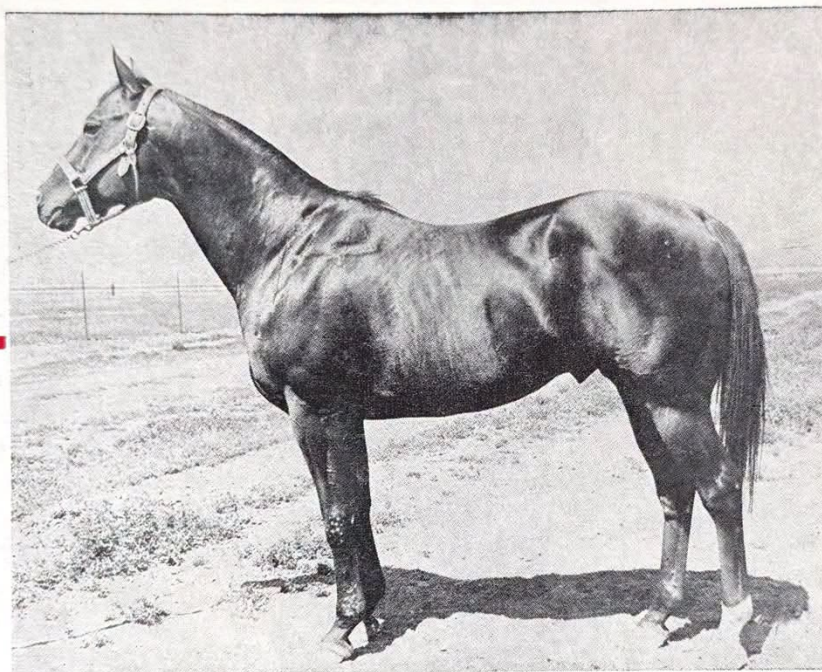




THREE BARS (TB)

The Sire Of Winners

Number of Starters on Quarter Tracks through 1956	104
Number of Winners through 1956	70
Money earned by racing get, 1949 through 1956	\$349,395
Register of Merit Qualifiers through 1956	74
(37 ROM Qualifiers in AAA)	

22 OF THREE BARS' GET HOLD 42 TRACK RECORDS

Of Three Bars' total starters, 71.15% have qualified for Register of Merit; 35.57% of his starters have made Grade AAA; 43.26% have qualified in Grade AA or better.

BOOKED FULL — THANK YOU

Three Bar Ranch

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VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA

"I never pictured a horse that could look that good," said Sid Vail to Ed Ellinger for Western Horseman. "If there was ever a perfect horse, he was it. I couldn't fault him anywhere."

Three Bars was foaled on April 10th, 1940. He was by Percentage, a chestnut stallion by black-type stakes winner Midway and out of Gossip Avenue, by Bulse. Percentage won nineteen races including the Cincinnati Trophy and the Pontchartrain Handicap. He sired stakes winners Knee Deep and Three Percent. Perlette, a daughter of Percentage, set a new track record for 5 furlongs at Washington Park. She went on to produce My Recipe, the dam of Intentionally, who sired many great horses including In Reality, Ta Wee, Tentam and Aforethought.

Myrtle Dee, the dam of Three Bars, was bred by James W. Parrish in Midway, Kentucky. She was by Luke McLuke, winner of the 1914 Belmont Stakes, and out of Civil Maid, a granddaughter of Ben Brush. Myrtle Dee made fifteen official starts and set a track record for 5 ½ furlongs at Coney Island in Cincinnati, Ohio. Between 1932 and 1939, she had seven Kentucky-bred foals – Brilliant Dee, Grey Nose, Bohannon, The Whale, Myrica, Housewife and Players Doom. When Myrtle Dee was in foal to Percentage for the second time, she was purchased at a sale, along with a few other pregnant mares, by Jack Goode, Ned Brent, and Bill Talbot. Just days after the sale, she foaled a good-looking chestnut colt. The owners thought they had hit the jackpot, so they named the colt after the three bars in a slot machine. He was the last foal of Myrtle Dee on record.

Three Bars began race training as a two-year-old but struggled to stay sound. Strangely, his hind leg would turn ice cold during workouts. Goode took Three Bars to some of the best vets in Kentucky, but none of them were able to help. Although he was the fastest colt they had ever bridled, Goode, Brent and Talbot decided to cut their losses. They gave Three Bars to Beckham Stivers with the stipulation that he would pay the men \$300 if Three Bars won a race. The colt was sold before he made a start on the track and they never got their money.

Three Bars broke his maiden as a three-year-old but was injured and spent the rest of the year recuperating. At four, he won three of four starts under multiple trainers and owners. In his final race of 1944, Three Bars was claimed for \$2,000 by Cal Kennedy, Stan Snedigar and Toad Haggard. The men shipped Three Bars from Detroit to Phoenix with the intention of breeding him to Quarter Horse mares. Three Bars had not been in Arizona long when Sid Vail, a Quarter Horse owner and breeder, heard about him. Vail thought Three Bars was the best looking horse he had ever seen. He offered the partners \$10,000 for the stallion and they accepted. Vail leased Three Bars to Melville Haskell for the 1945 breeding season. It was on Haskell's ranch near Tucson that Three Bars sired Barred, a multiple track record setter. It was a promising first crop of foals.

By 1946, the condition that had troubled his hind leg was resolved. Apparently, bloodworms had clogged an artery and cut off circulation to the limb. With Three Bars completely sound, Vail wanted to prove him on the racetrack. He leased the stallion back to Kennedy, Snedigar and Haggard to campaign on tracks in the southwest. At six years old, Three Bars won eight races including the Speed Handicap at Agua Caliente. He also set a new track record at Phoenix for 5 furlongs in 0:57.30 seconds. Three Bars had blazing early speed and often tired when running typical Thoroughbred distances. His trainer tried to rate him by putting a bicycle chain across his nose, but the horse refused to be held back. With little chance of winning longer races and larger purses, Three Bars retired at the age of seven with an official record of 28 starts, twelve wins, and \$20,840 in earnings, which is equivalent of about \$285,000 today. After he left the track, Three Bars stood at Vail's ranch near Douglas, Arizona. He covered very few mares, possibly because of the ranch's remote location. Regardless, Three Bars sired an incredibly high percentage of stakes winners. In the five years following his final retirement from racing, he sired Tonto Bars Gill, the 1952 Champion Three-Year-Old Colt; Bardella, the

1952 Champion Two-Year-Old Filly and 1953 Champion Three-Year-Old Filly; Miss Myrna Bar, the 1953 Champion Two-Year-Old Filly; and Josie's Bar, the 1954 Champion Three-Year-Old Filly, World Champion Mare and World Champion Racing American Quarter Horse. He also sired stakes winners Barjo, Gold Bar, Miss Wonder Bar and War Chant. Lightning Bar, Sugar Bars and Rocket Bar, were among his first foals to be inducted into the AQHA Hall of Fame. These outstanding horses established his reputation as an important sire of racing and performance horses early on in his stud career.

In 1952, when Three Bars was twelve years old, Vail agreed to lease him to Walter Merrick, one of the greatest Quarter Horse breeders of all time. Merrick was looking for a Thoroughbred stallion to add reach and refinement to his Joe Hancock and Midnight Jr. mares. Three Bars had the bone structure and conformation that he needed. Amidst controversy regarding whether Thoroughbred offspring should be allowed to be registered with the AQHA, Merrick remained confident that the right kind of Thoroughbred could improve the breed. That is exactly what Three Bars did.

Merrick stood Three Bars for \$300 at his ranch in Sayre, Oklahoma. He filled his book with 70 mares. One of the mares Merrick bred that year was Hot Heels, a daughter of Midnight Jr. The resulting foal, Bob's Folly, won eighteen races including the Rocky Mountain QHA Futurity, RMQHA Stallion Stakes, Shue Fly Stakes, New Mexico State Fair Derby and Kansas QHA Derby. Bob's Folly went on to become a leading sire of racing ROM-earners. Stakes winners Jayhawker Bar, Bar Three, Baldy Girl, Lux Bar, Dandy Bar and Bar Dust were also among that first Oklahoma foal crop. Additionally, Bar Bob, a chestnut stallion from that same crop of foals, became an AQHA Champion for his accomplishments on the track and in the arena.

Although Vail had agreed to lease Three Bars to Merrick for two seasons, he changed his mind and wanted him back for his own mares. Merrick could not afford to buy Three Bars, so the stallion was shipped back to Arizona. Merrick was determined to continue breeding his mares to Three Bars so he hauled them across the country. In 1953, one of the mares that Merrick hauled to Three Bars was Lena Valenti, a Thoroughbred mare that had earned an AQHA Racing Register of Merit. The resulting foal, Lena's Bar, became one of the greatest Thoroughbreds to ever face Quarter Horse company. Her younger full sister, Little Lena Bars, could claim that title outright. The two Thoroughbred mares won multiple stakes races, set numerous track records, and defeated horses such as Go Man Go, Double Bid and Vandy's Flash. Both mares died young, but Lena's Bar was inducted into the AQHA Hall of Fame for her accomplishments, most notably producing Easy Jet, the 1969 World Champion Racing American Quarter Horse.

Vail eventually moved Three Bars to the aptly named Three Bars Ranch in Oakdale, California where his stud fee was set at \$10,000. The steep fee was justified by his continued ability to sire champion runners including Mr Bar None, the 1957 Champion Two-Year-Old Colt, 1958 Champion Three-Year-Old Colt and 1958 World Champion Racing American Quarter Horse; Missile Bar, the 1958 Champion Two-Year-Old Colt and 1959 Champion Three-Year-Old Colt; Triple Lady, the 1959 Champion Three-Year-Old Filly, 1959 World Champion Mare and 1960 World Champion Mare; Breeze Bar, the 1961 World Champion Horse; and First Call, the 1961 World Champion Mare. He also sired stakes winners Clabber Bar, Casbar, Don Bar, Bar Flirt, Galobar, Heavenly Flower, Bunny's Bar Maid and Alamitos Bar. Three Percent, Jimmy Bars, Julio's Bar, Wiggy Bar, Mighty Bars, Red Bars, Parker Bar, Rapid Bar, Magnolia Bar, Mr Three Bars, Three Chicks and Sleepy Bar were AQHA Champions that he sired during those years. Pokey Bar, the highest earning Quarter Horse racehorse by Three Bars, was foaled in 1959. He was bred by Hugh Huntley. Pokey Bar won the 1961 All American Futurity and Kindergarten Futurity. He was the High Money Earning Horse and AQHA Racing Champion Two-Year-Old Colt that year. He also earned the title of Champion Three-Year-Old colt after victories in the

Ruidoso Derby, Los Alamitos Derby and Pacific Coast QHRA Derby. Pokey Bar also set a new track record at Los Alamitos for 440 yards in 0:21.500 seconds and a new world track record at Pompano Park for 350 yards in 0:18.340 seconds. He went on to sire a few racing Quarter Horses and Paints. Pokey Bar passed away in 1989 at the age of 30.

While in his twenties, Three Bars sired Little Chloe, the 1962 Champion Two-Year-Old Filly, and Rapid Volley, the 1965 Champion Two-Year-Old Filly. He also sired AQHA Hall of Fame inductees, The Ole Man and Zippo Pat Bars. AQHA Champions Chicado Chick, Bar Money, Bar's Shady Lady, Fairbars, Bar Flower, Goldseeker Bars, Eyes of Texas, Kid Meyers, Little Bar Olene, Clip Bars, St Bar, Three Cookies, Three Storms and No Double were also sired by Three Bars in his later years.

Finally, in 1967, when Three Bars was 27 years old, Vail agreed to let Merrick take the horse again. Merrick hauled Three Bars and his companion, a blind mare named Fairy Adams, back to Oklahoma. According to Western Horseman, Merrick believed that Vail wanted him to take Three Bars because he couldn't bear the thought of being with his beloved stallion when he passed. The stallion was still in good shape and able to cover a few dozen mares in his final years.

Throughout his 24 years at stud, Three Bars sired 575 registered Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse foals. They included 356 race winners, 354 ROM-earners, 66 stakes winners, 38 Superior Race Award earners, 29 AQHA Champions, 17 Racing Champions and 2 Racing World Champions. His offspring earned \$3,612,991 on the track and 2,129.0 points in the arena. Not included in those statistics are his Appaloosa offspring, of which Three Bars Queen was inducted into the ApHC Hall of Fame and Miss Three Bars was a National Champion.

Quarter Horse daughters of Three Bars produced 2,055 foals that earned \$7,021,235 on the track and 4,749.0 points in the arena. They included 865 ROM-earners, 808 race winners, 88 stakes winners, 66 Superior Race Award earners, 17 AQHA Champions and 2 World Champions. His grandget also earned \$160,471.11 in the National Cutting Horse Association. Top performers out of daughters of Three Bars include the aforementioned Easy Jet, as well as Chantella, Three Deep, Anna Dial, Moolah Bar, Miss Top Flame, Duplicate Copy, Bar Request, Go Josie Go, Jet Smooth and Parker's Trouble. His sons also sired greats such as Doc Bar, Impressive, Tonto Bars Hank, Aledo Bar, Lightning Rey, Rocket Wrangler, The Investor, Zippo Pine Bar and Zan Parr Bar.

Three Bars died of an apparent heart attack just two days shy of his 28th birthday. His blind companion mare, Fairy Adams, gave birth to his last foal, named The Last Son, on March 1st, 1969. Fairy Adams died two years later at the age of 22. Tina Merrick, Walter Merrick's wife, said that "the guardian angel of horses was knocking a hole between two stalls so Fairy Adams and Three Bars could be together again."

It is impossible to summarize the influence that Three Bars had on the Quarter Horse breed. No other individual horse has ever impacted all aspects of the industry as deeply as Three Bars. Through his sons such as Barred, Bob's Folly, Gay Bar King, Lightning Bar, Lucky Bar, Mr Bar None, Rocket Bar, Sugar Bars, Tonto Bars Gill and Zippo Pat Bars, he forever left his mark in halter, racing, cutting, barrel racing and other performance events. He was inducted into the AQHA Hall of Fame in 1989. If a higher honor could be given, the almighty Three Bars would be worthy.