

# And The Award Goes To...

Awards Presented to the recipients of the 2007 *Monty Roberts Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Western Horse Training* and the 2007 *Monty Roberts Equitarian Award*

## Honoring Sandy Collier and Richard Winters

By Pat Roberts

**Solvang, CA** – On January 19, 2008 over 200 people celebrated the hosted banquet for the 2007 honorees of the *Monty Roberts Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Western Horse Training* and the recipient of the *Monty Roberts Equitarian Award* dedicated to that person who has worked with the horse's mind without using force. This event is held annually on Flag Is Up Farms at the home of Pat and Monty Roberts, who sponsor the awards and the evening for the recipients, their family, friends and colleagues.

### Sandy Collier

Sandy Collier from Buellton, California was honored for her *Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Western Horse Training*. Few people are aware of how hard and what sacrifices Sandy made to become the outstanding horsewoman she is today. Sandy has lived in Santa Barbara County for many years. Those residents from this area remember the early days when Sandy was working with other trainers and living on a scant shoestring. She is an example of the person who set out with a goal in mind and was willing to work to obtain it, no matter how menial the task or difficult the circumstances.

Not only has she been studying all aspects of the horse business professionally from a very young age, she is also exceptionally goal oriented. And has it paid off! Sandy is the first and only woman horse trainer to win the National Reined Cow Horse Association World Champion Snaffle Bit Futurity. This is one of the greatest competitions for cow horses known for its prestige throughout the world. She has also won the NRCHA World Championship Reserve Co-Championship, in addition to being a regular finalist at the competition annually. She has won a NRCHA Stallion Stakes Championship and has been the NRCHA Limited Open Champion.

She is ranked in the top 10 for NRCHA earnings and has been consistently ranked among the years' top five reined cow horse all-ages, all-divisions rider. Sandy has also competed at the American Quarter Horse Association's World Championship in Oklahoma City where she won the Junior Working Cow Horse Open Division. These are just a few of her achievements in the Western Field.

In addition to the reined cow horse division competitions, Sandy has been a regular finalist in the cutting horse futurities when she showed cutters for many years. Along with training horses, Sandy holds hands-on training clinics. She has developed and produced several training videos, and she is in the process of writing a book that will be as successful as all her other endeavors. She is an accomplished

speaker and attributes much of her success to integrity and a positive mental attitude. She adds that 'being a perfectionist has been helpful.' This has been substantiated by many of her loyal and long-term friends and customers.

### Richard Winters

Richard is a young man who followed his dream. Although he was raised in the Fresno/Clovis area located in the San Joaquin Valley of California, he knew wanted to be involved with horses. He was willing to peddle his bicycle seven miles to a stable across town. He earned the privilege to be around horses by cleaning stalls, driving a feed wagon and helping saddle the dude string. He also spent four summers wrangling dude horses in the mountains. Believe me, this is hard work, as I spent my summers as a young girl doing just the same.

Richard's first break came when he was given an opportunity to work for the late bridle horse trainer, Troy Henry of Clovis, California. This was his first introduction to higher levels of horsemanship. Troy was of the opinion that horsemanship was about ten percent mechanics and ninety percent psychology. During this time, Richard had the privilege of riding some fine bridle horses. He furthered his education by enrolling in a nine-month farrier program that gave him skills that financed most of the needs of a 17 year old.

After graduating from high school, he attended Hartnell College in Salinas, California that had an outstanding varsity rodeo program. Two years of roping calves and riding saddle broncs was what he termed 'a lot of fun,' however he came to the conclusion that there

Monty and Pat presenting the 2007 Equitarian Award to Richard Winters



Sandy Collier receiving the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award in the Western Field from Pat and Monty

wasn't much future in it. Incidentally, Hartnell was the college that Monty Roberts chose after graduating from high school and prior to attending Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, where he competed in Intercollegiate rodeos as well.

It was in Salinas that Richard met future wife and mother of his children, Cheryl. He credits Cheryl with being the cornerstone of his success, as she has been the number one supporter of his 'ongoing adventure.'

Over the years, clients recognized the horse handling skills of the young farrier and training opportunities began to present themselves with more frequency. In the late 1980's and early 1990's horsemanship clinics gained in popularity. A strong horsemanship foundation, along with people skills, provided the basis for his success and reputation as an outstanding clinician.

Richard was the perfect choice for the 2007 Equitarian award as an example of a person who is dedicated to working with the horse's mind without using force. Further, he came highly recommended by his peers as an exemplary candidate for this honor. For the future, Richard hopes to hone his skills as an avid competitor with the National Reined Cow Horse Association with world championship titles to his credit. He is an A-rated Judge and coach to world champion non-professional riders. Richard and his family live in Ojai, California today.

It's been said, "Find a vocation you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life!" Both Sandy Collier and Richard Winters are living their childhood dreams and are fine examples of people who love their professions.

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