

= Midnight Sun ( horse ) =

Midnight Sun ( 1940 ? 1965 ) was one of the leading sires of the Tennessee Walking Horse breed , and a two @-@ time World Grand Champion in 1945 and 1946 . He was trained by Fred Walker and lived almost all his life at Harlinsdale Farm in Franklin , Tennessee .

Midnight Sun sired approximately 2 @, @ 600 foals in his life , one of which became the three @-@ time World Grand Champion The Talk of the Town . Of the horses that have won the annual Tennessee Walking Horse World Grand Championship since 1949 , only four were not of Midnight Sun 's bloodline .

= = Life and winnings = =

Midnight Sun was foaled on June 8 , 1940 , out of a mostly Standardbred mare named Ramsey 's Rena , and sired by the stallion Wilson 's Allen . He was a solid black stallion who matured to just under 16 hands ( 64 inches , 163 cm ) and weighed 1 @, @ 350 pounds ( 610 kg ) , unusually stout for his breed . His original name was Joe Lewis Wilson .

Through his sire Midnight Sun was a great @-@ grandson of Black Allan , also known as Allan F @-@ 1 , who was the foundation sire of the Tennessee Walking Horse breed . Midnight Sun 's half @-@ brother on his sire 's side , Strolling Jim , became the first ever National Champion in 1939 , and three of his other siblings were early champions as well . In 1944 Midnight Sun was bought by Wirt and Alex Harlin for \$ 4 @, @ 400 and taken to their Harlinsdale Farm .

Midnight Sun was trained by Fred Walker . He became the first Tennessee Walking Horse to win the World Grand Championship title when it was first awarded in 1945 , and he followed up that win with another World Grand Championship the next year , in 1946 , making him the second repeat winner after Haynes Peacock , his half @-@ brother . At the time , the stake carried a purse of \$ 1 @, @ 000 .

Midnight Sun was known for his calm disposition ; it wasn 't uncommon for stablehands at his home , Harlinsdale Farm near Franklin , Tennessee , to let visiting children ride him bareback , so they could say they rode a two @-@ time world grand champion . In 1956 he was bought by Eleanor and Geraldine Livingston at the Harlinsdale Farm dispersal sale , for \$ 50 @, @ 000 . The Livingstons stipulated that Midnight Sun be kept at Harlinsdale under the same routine he had had for most of his life . He continued to stand at stud on the farm until his death , and was handled and groomed nearly all his life by Red Laws , who died within a year of the horse 's death . Midnight Sun was never turned out , and Laws once said , " Somebody had hold of him all his life . " In all , he lived at Harlinsdale Farm for 21 years . Midnight Sun died of colic on November 7 , 1965 , and was buried at Harlinsdale Farm , where his grave is still visible today .

= = Legacy = =

Midnight Sun has been described as the single most influential Tennessee Walking Horse sire and a sire of sires . Since 1949 , only four horses not of Midnight Sun 's line have won the Tennessee Walking Horse World Grand Championship , the breed 's highest honor . Midnight Sun sired five horses who won the World Grand Championship : Midnight Merry in 1949 ; The Talk of the Town in 1951 , 1952 , and 1953 ; Sun 's Jet Parade in 1957 ; Setting Sun in 1958 ; and Sun 's Delight D. in 1963 . One of these , The Talk of the Town , was the first three @-@ time World Grand Champion . Midnight Sun was also great @-@ grandsire of I Am Jose , the second three @-@ time winner . Most of the leading Tennessee Walker sires in recent years have themselves been descendants of Midnight Sun . Midnight Sun sired approximately 2 @, @ 600 foals in his lifetime , and during his stud career earned his owners close to \$ 100 @, @ 000 a year , mostly through the then @-@ new use of artificial insemination ( AI ) . Through his offspring , he has also influenced the Racking Horse and Spotted Saddle Horse breeds . For many years , a life @-@ size statue of Midnight Sun , commissioned after his death by his former owner Geraldine Livingston , stood at the TWHBEA headquarters in Lewisburg , Tennessee .

= = Pedigree = =

? Denotes inbreeding