

= Lightning Bar =

Lightning Bar (1951 ? 1960) was an American Quarter Horse who raced and subsequently became a breeding stallion . He was bred by his lifelong owner Art Pollard of Sonoita , Arizona , and was the offspring of Three Bars , a Thoroughbred , and Della P , a Quarter Horse mare from Louisiana , then noted for the breeding of sprint horses . Lightning Bar raced ten times , achieving four victories and four other top three finishes . His racing career was cut short by illness after only one year , following which he spent two years as a show horse . As a breeding stallion he sired seven crops , or years , of foals , among whom Doc Bar was the best known . In 1960 Lightning Bar died of an intestinal infection at the age of nine . He was inducted into the American Quarter Horse Association 's (AQHA) Hall of Fame in 2008 .

= = Early life = =

Foaled , or born , in 1951 , Lightning Bar was bred to be a race horse , but injuries and bouts of illnesses kept him from racing past the age of two . His breeder , Art Pollard , owned him for the horse 's entire life . Lightning Bar was sired by Three Bars , a Thoroughbred stallion later inducted into the AQHA Hall of Fame . His dam was Della P , a daughter of the Thoroughbred stallion Doc Horn . His second dam , or maternal grandmother , was a mare who was never given a name , sired by Old D. J. Art Pollard purchased Della P from " Dink " Parker for \$ 1 @, @ 750 (approximately \$ 17 @, @ 200 as of 2016) in the late 1940s . Della P was bred in Louisiana , a leader in breeding short distance racehorses between 1900 and 1940 , and was taken to Arizona by Parker .

When Lightning Bar was about five days old Pollard was afraid that he had leg problems and was buck @-@ kneed , and considered putting the colt to sleep . He sought Parker 's advice , and as Pollard later related the story , " Dink just looked at me and shook his head . ' Ain 't you ever gonna learn nothing ? That colt 's just what you 're looking for . ' " When mature , the sorrel @-@ colored Lightning Bar stood 15 @. @ 2 hands (62 inches , 157 cm) tall and weighed about 1 @, @ 250 pounds (570 kg) .

= = Racing and show career = =

Lightning Bar started on the racetrack ten times , winning four races , coming in second three times , and third once . Among those finishes , he ran second and third in two stakes races , a type of race for higher quality horses with a higher payout . His total earnings on the track were \$ 1 @, @ 491 (approximately \$ 13 @, @ 200 as of 2016) , and his highest speed index , or comparative rating of his speed , was AAA , the highest achievable at the time . Lightning Bar raced for only one year , as he suffered from bouts of pneumonia , strangles , and leg injuries . He equalled one track record for two @-@ year @-@ olds at the Los Angeles County Fair race meeting in Pomona , California , running 330 yards (300 m) in 17 @. @ 2 seconds .

After his racing career Lightning Bar went on to become a show horse , earning 18 open halter points with the AQHA , and an AQHA Champion award in 1955 . He won one grand championship and one reserve championship in halter classes at recognized AQHA shows .

= = Breeding career = =

The first year Lightning Bar stood as a breeding stallion his stud fee , the amount charged to breed a mare to him , was \$ 250 (approximately \$ 2 @, @ 200 as of 2016) but only nine mares were bred to him . The next year , he bred 11 mares , but in 1956 , he bred 102 mares at \$ 500 (approximately \$ 4 @, @ 400 as of 2016) each . One of Pollard 's attempts to advertise his stallion involved letting one of his ranch hands take the horse to a local jackpot roping . Pollard assumed that the hand would just ride Lightning Bar around and show him off , but he later discovered that more was involved . Pollard said later that " I should have been suspicious when he (the ranch hand) returned with Lightning Bar that afternoon , with a sheepish grin on his face . I asked him how the

horse was received and he said ' The stud did good and I won the jackpot ! ' After congratulating him , I asked which rope horse he had used . He replied , ' The stud . ' "

Pollard said of Lightning Bar that " I always had to be careful about the kind of latch I used on a gate with that horse . He could figure them out faster than I could . He would open a gate , and go for a stroll . " Lightning Bar sired 148 foals in his eight breeding seasons , and 118 of those foals went on to either race or show careers . Of his foals , 108 started races , and 77 won , earning a total of \$ 476 @, @ 949 . The most successful of his foals , Lightning Belle , earned \$ 60 @, @ 134 (approximately \$ 465 @, @ 000 as of 2016) .

Five of Lightning Bar 's foals earned AQHA Championships : Cactus Comet , Crash Bang , Lightning Rey , Pana Bar and Relampago Bar ; Lightning Rey earned a Supreme Championship . In addition , Lightning Bar 's offspring earned \$ 1 @, @ 163 @. @ 32 in National Cutting Horse Association sanctioned cattle cutting competitions , and four earned a Superior Halter Horse title from the AQHA .

= = Death and legacy = =

Lightning Bar died in June 1960 from colitis @-@ X , a disease of unknown origin that can kill rapidly and without warning . It infected many of Pollard 's horses ; of those affected only three survived . Heartbroken , Pollard sold his remaining stock and did not return to the Quarter Horse business for 15 years . He said later that " it was a nightmare when they were wiped out . Even now , we can still feel the sadness of losing those horses . " Another time , Pollard remarked that " Someone once said that a man deserves one good woman and one good dog in his lifetime . To that quip I would add one good horse . I certainly had one in Lightning Bar . "

Lightning Bar was inducted into the AQHA 's American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame in 2008 . His most famous son was Doc Bar , who was also inducted into the Hall of Fame . Lightning Bar 's daughter Glamour Bars was the dam of Impressive , who became well known as one of the leading sires of halter horses . Two stakes races were run in Lightning Bar 's memory , the first at Los Alamitos Race track in California for one year in 1961 . The second ran from 1962 to 1966 at Ruidoso Downs in New Mexico .

= = Pedigree = =