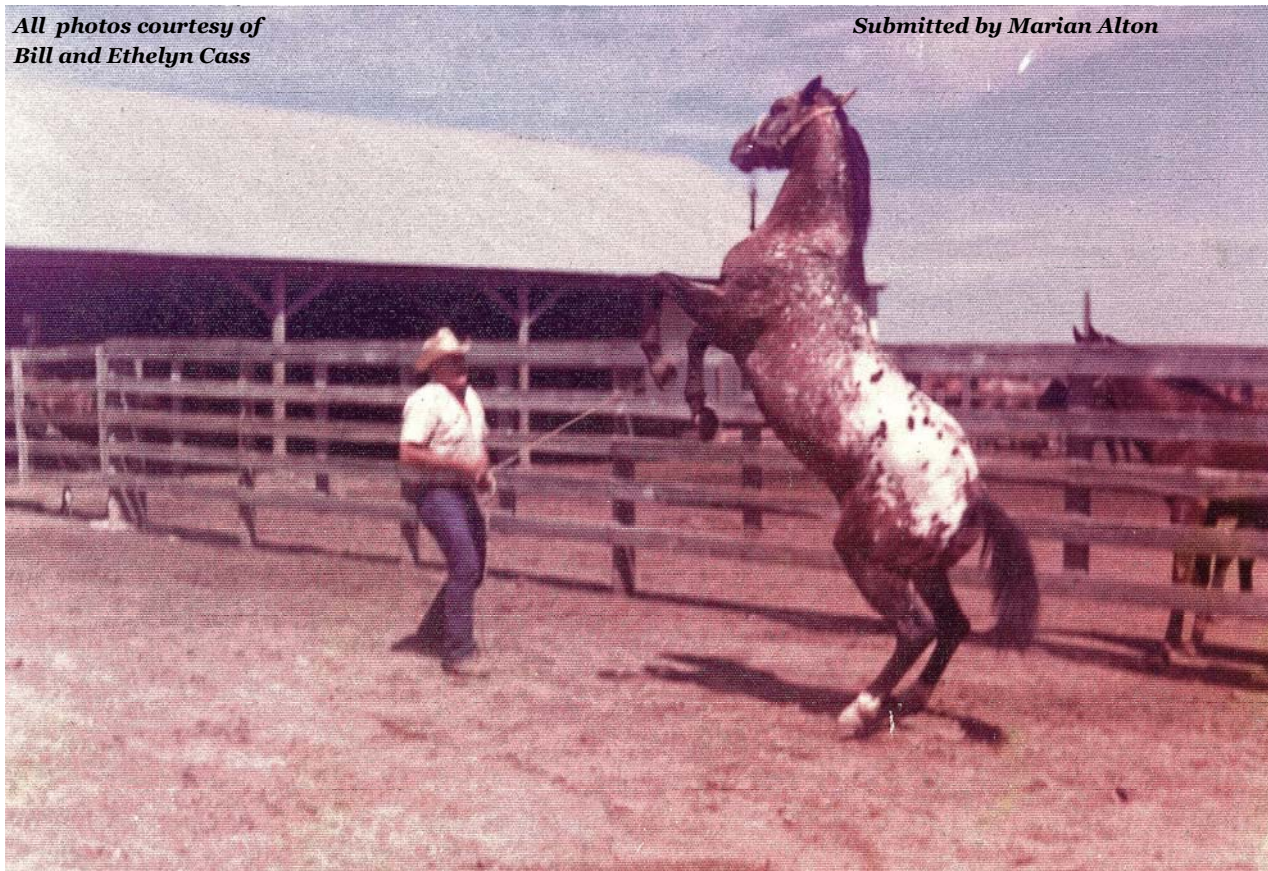


## *Member Spotlight*

# “WILD BILL CASS” Celebrates 80th Birthday!

*All photos courtesy of  
Bill and Ethelyn Cass*

*Submitted by Marian Alton*



The above photo of Bill and his great stallion, Colida, at home on the Circle Lazy C Ranch years ago in Welch, Oklahoma, seems a perfect way to start this tribute to a Hall of Fame man and his Hall of Fame Appaloosa Champion. Colida, as most of us know, was an outcrop with only his dam ever being officially recognized and identified. She was AQHA Lady Chesty from the Peter McCue line through his sons Chief P-5, Harmon Baker, and Hickory Bill, and Colida passed on class, speed, and “cow-ability.” His sire remains a mystery. Bill discovered Colida in Illinois, but he was foaled in Kit Carson, Colorado, in 1957. Bill began Colida’s show career in 1962 after getting him.

Bill will be eighty years old May 1st, and still owns some fine Appaloosas including the blanket Colida grandson, Colida Will Power, by the late Colida Will. In the following pages, you will see some Cass family photos which have never before left the Cass home. These rare treasures are being shared for the first time with Appaloosa fans everywhere, and Sooner News is proud and very grateful to have the honor of presenting the following wonderful scenes and history to you. Our thanks to Bill and Ethelyn for making this issue so unique.

**Happy Birthday, Bill!**      **Enjoy!**



Colida's show and stud record is too lengthy to list and only a few of his sons are shown in this story. His daughter, Co-Lady, held ten high point regional honors. Other fine daughters were Co-Laurie, Co-Sarah, Co-Alene, Colidas Miss Fire, etc.

Bill's love for horses began as a child and we have an excellent example of where that interest came from.

*Below is Bill's father, Porter, about eight years old at the north edge of Welch.*

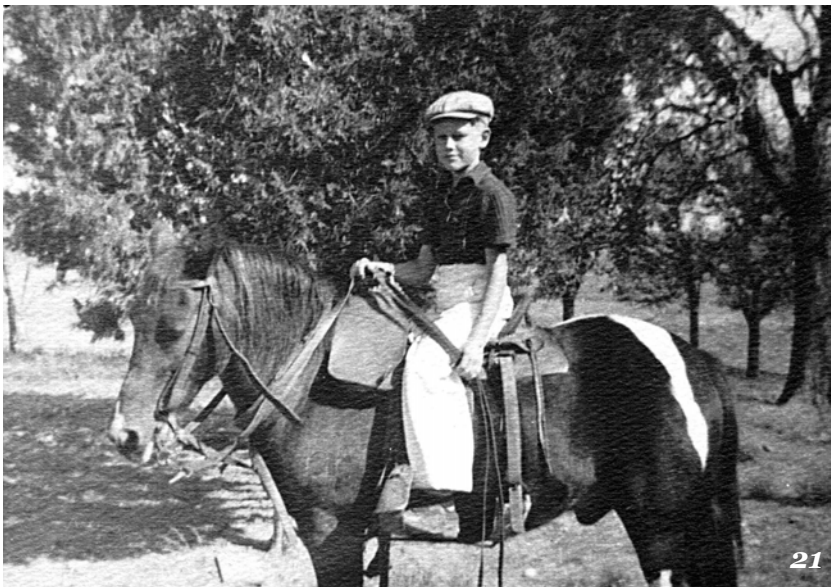


*Jerry Stejskal and Colida Will. (above) Colida Will was bay with white spots over hips as a young horse, then roaned later.*

*Lower left; This is a photo of Bill Cass, sitting down, at about 3 years old. Bill was born in 1929 and this picture was taken around 1932. The caption on the back reads "Billy Cass." Marian had to snatch this one up in a hurry, as Bill wasn't too sure about it being used!*



*Lower right; This picture of Bill was taken around 1939, northwest of Welch on the Harlan Ranch. This area was on a hill and today Bill can see it from his kitchen looking east across the section line road and prairie.*





## Member Spotlight

Here is a beautiful 1922 photo, taken in Vinita, Oklahoma, of Bill's mother, Mattie, and father, Porter. Mattie's maiden name was Speaker. (right)

Porter and Bill's sister, Carol, near Welch. There is no date with this photograph, but we decided to reproduce the interesting border that was printed directly on the photo paper, and was probably the work of the developer. (below)



Bill's grandfather, (above) Louis Cass, grandmother and children. Porter is second from the right. Louis Cass made the historical Land Run.



Right, center; Colida, Porter holding Colida, and Bill, around 1964, Welch, Oklahoma. The Circle Lazy C is on the Cherokee allotted land.

Below, right; December 17, 1997. Porter celebrates his 95th birthday. Welch, Oklahoma was his home most of his life.



*March / April 2009*



*The two photos (above) were taken on the Bar Double RR Ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in 1950, where Bill worked until drafted into the Air Force.. He was 21 in these photos. His horse was Old Streak (left), and you can bet he rode that bike like a streak!*

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*Below, a young Bill and wife, Ethelyn, present the trophy and halter to Sooner member, John Letham and Dial Might. The show was held at the Cass' Circle Lazy C Ranch in Welch, Oklahoma.*

