



Edward Louis “Geech” Partin

Born in Kissimmee on January 9, 1914, Edward Louis “Geech” Partin was one of five sons of H.O. and Bertha Lee Bass Partin.

The Partins were a prominent Osceola County ranching family whose H. O. Partin and Sons Heart Bar Ranch was recognized for raising outstanding Brahman cattle. By the 1950s, their Kissimmee operation was considered one of the largest privately-owned ranches east of the Mississippi.

As a boy, Partin was fascinated by stories about Steel Dust and other early Quarter Horses. Reading about the breed’s foundation horses inspired Partin to have a stallion of his own.

Partin made that dream reality and is credited with bringing the first Quarter-type horse to Florida.

He bought a 1933 son of Pal O Mine named Kip, and had the stallion shipped to Kissimmee by rail in 1934. Upon arrival, Partin admitted his new stallion was a “ratty-lookin’ bugger,” thanks to the tail-chewing cattle he’d shared the train car with.

Partin used the stout little chestnut on the ranch to work cows and for match racing on Sundays.

Kip sired only 15 foals, but one of those colts was Adios Kip, foaled in 1941. Adios Kip sired Little Dick Priest, the sire of Florida-bred

Go Dick Go, winner of the prestigious All American Futurity-G1 in 1966 and 1966 champion 2-year-old colt.

As a breeder, Partin favored Little Joe bloodlines. One of his good stallions was Balmy L, a 1938 Texas-bred son of Maynard L out of the Little Joe mare, Balmy Days. Balmy L had been described as the “fastest horse in Texas.”

According to the AQHA, Balmy L sired 158 foals, three of which were out of the mare Misty Day by Everett (TB). B Day became an AAA runner. Little Misty earned a high ranking in Partin’s broodmare band. Misty B was reportedly one of Partin’s favorite horses.

Partin lived his entire life in his hometown of Kissimmee where his passion for horses and cattle shaped his career. He was a member of the Kissimmee Livestock Market and the American Brahman Breeders Association, the Osceola County Farm Bureau, the Florida and National Cattleman's Association.

Partin became an AQHA Director in 1946. He served on the AQHA stud book and registration, racing and youth activities committees. In addition to serving two terms as president of the Florida Quarter Horse Association, he was a member of the Florida Horse Breeders Advisory Council. He was inducted into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame in 1996.

Partin was a genuine Florida cowboy. In the early 1940s, he and his wife, Constance (“Connie”), were founding members of the Silver Spurs Club. Partin was named the rodeo’s Big Boss in 1949. He was recognized as the first Coca-Cola Cowboy in 1982 in honor of his efforts to promote the Silver Spurs Rodeo and club.

He and Connie married in 1936 and had three sons, two daughters, 19 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Edward Louis “Geech” Partin died on September 21, 1994, at the age of 80.

