

Three Bars

A famous sire of Quarter Horses, **Three Bars** (1940–1968) was a registered Thoroughbred racehorse before going on to become a member of the American Quarter Horse Association's (or AQHA) American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame in 1989.^[1]

Life

Foaled April 8, 1940, Three Bars was sired by Percentage and out of Myrtle Dee.^[2] After a promising showing in race training, he developed leg problems and never raced well before he was six years old. By that time, he was in Arizona, owned by Sidney H. Vail, who paid \$10,000 for him in 1945.^[3] Eventually, his leg problems cleared up enough for him to race and show great early speed. He won the Speed Handicap in 1946 at Hipodromo de Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico; which was a three-fourths of a mile, \$4,000 ungraded stakes race for horses three years old or older. The winning time was 1:10 and a fifth.^[4] Vail leased him to Walter Merrick, an early breeder of racing Quarter Horses, for a few years, but also stood him in Arizona and California.^[2] Three Bars died in March, 1968 in Oklahoma on Walter Merrick's ranch.^[2]

Three Bars

Sire	Percentage
Grandsire	Midway
Dam	Myrtle Dee
Damsire	Luke McLuke
Sex	Stallion
Foaled	1940
Country	United States
Color	Chestnut
Record	28: 12-3-1
Earnings	\$20,840

Major wins

Speed Handicap

Honours

American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame

Last updated on July 5, 2007

Sire Record

Three Bars was the sire of 29 AQHA Champions, 4 AQHA Supreme Champions, 317 Racing Register of Merit earners, and his foals earned more than \$3 million on the racetrack.^[2] Among his famous offspring were Mr. Bar None, Gay Bar King, Sugar Bars, Lightning Bar, Tonto Bars Gill, St. Bar, Steel Bars, and Bar Money. Others include Triple Chick, Alamitos Bar, Bar Depth, Royal Bar, Josie's Bar, and Galobar. His grandson Doc Bar became one of the most influential sires of cutting horses ever known. Another grandson, Tonto Bars Hank, sired all around horses. Jewel's Leo Bars (Freckles), an outstanding cutting horse and sire of cutting horses, was another grandson of Three Bars (TB). Impressive, a triple descendant of Three Bars, became the most prepotent sire of Quarter Horse halter horses from the 1970s through the 1990s.^[5] His offspring Rocket Bar (TB), Sugar Bars, Lena's Bar (TB), Lightning Bar and Zippo Pat Bars were all inducted into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame.^[1] Of his grandget, Doc Bar, Zippo Pine Bar, Easy Jet, Kaweah Bar, Zan Parr Bar, and The Investor were inducted into the AQHA Hall of Fame.^[1] Four of his sons were AQHA Supreme Champions — Kid Meyers, Bar Money, Fairbars, and Goldseeker Bars.^[6]