



Doss had her horse Ten bred from a prize-winning stallion and one of her brood mares and had him for over 40 years.

## Oldest Registered Paint Horse Dies at 41

The oldest registered horse in the American Paint Horse Association died in June 2023 at the age of 41 years and 3 months. Joy Doss, who had him bred from a prize-winning stallion and one of her brood mares, recognized early on that there was something special about him. She named him Ten because “he seemed like a perfect 10.”

“Ten was a quiet, easy-going horse. Nothing upset him,” Doss recalls.

At 2, he won in Trail and Western Pleasure events at the State Fair of Texas. At 3, Doss rode Ten as an outrider next to her team pulling a wagon during the Texas Sesquicentennial Wagon Train, and he helped stop more than one runaway team. At night, Ten stood over Doss as they slept under the stars. After watching her comb her hair several times, Ten picked up the comb in his teeth and tried to comb Doss’ hair.

“I had many offers from people who wanted to buy him, but I was just going to keep him,” Doss says.

When she taught riding, Ten was her lesson horse and he remained steadfast in all kinds of situations with inexperienced riders from spurs digging deep into his side to kids wrapping their arms around his legs.

By the time he was 39, Doss knew that he’d passed the longevity of most Paints, so she called the APHA. She learned that

horses were “archived” after age 25, but the association put Ten back in their live file.

Doss celebrated with a birthday party, including funny hats and sweet horse treats for Ten, who was still in good condition.

That changed the following winter when a snowstorm kept Doss’ horses in their stalls for a week.

“Ten got claustrophobic, and he started fretting during the snowstorm,” Doss recalls. His eyesight had dimmed, and Doss paired him with Dancer, a white mare. Ten stayed close to her by touching her with his nose, which seemed to comfort him.

Doss pampered Ten, with good horse feed and alfalfa leaves she pulled off stems because he only had a couple of teeth. She covered him with coats for different weather, and stuffed his ears with cotton and comforted him when neighbors shot off fireworks.

His appetite was good, and he especially enjoyed molasses, until a Sunday evening in June 2023. Doss realized it was his time to go and called the vet.

Ten is buried on Doss’ Sulphur Springs, Texas, ranch, and she misses the friend she had for four decades.

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Corn cannons are a popular feature at Cajun Country Corn in Louisiana.

## His Toys Create Fun For Farm Visitors

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

Sandbox toys don’t typically attract folks over 5-ft. tall. But an adult-size digging tool caught my attention after dining in a remodeled corn bin at Choice Farm Market in Webberville, Mich., which sells locally grown food and has a corn maze and other agritourism activities.

The tractor seat was comfortable and swiveled, and it was fun to move the handles to operate the mini excavator bucket to move sand and toys.

“Why should the kids have all the fun?” asks Donald Courville. He builds the diggers and other agritourism products when he’s not working at his own business, Cajun Country Corn, in Louisiana.

He first made smaller diggers for children, then added the adult versions when customers requested them so parents and their kids could dig together.

“Everything we build is heavy duty. I use square tubing to give it strength and 14-gauge and 11-gauge steel,” Courville says.

Though not listed on the business website, he still builds the diggers on request. Agritourism businesses also know him for his corn cannons, the first product he made 23 years ago. They shoot ammunition that maze owners have plenty of - ears of corn. Later, he made cannons to shoot apples for orchard owners.

But his barrel trains are the most popular. Colorfully painted by his wife Vicki, Courville has made cow trains, bee trains, and other customized trains, with each barrel featuring a clever name.

His largest items are people-moving wagons that look like grain wagons. They are built low to the ground and include models for wheelchair accessibility.



Contributing editor Dee Goerge gets in on the fun on a mini excavator.



Hancock turned his hobby into a small business by selling his mini-tractor sewing machines.

## He Makes Mini Tractors From Sewing Machines

Rod Hancock of Nanaimo, B.C., makes model tractors from old Singer Sewing machines. “I saw a YouTube video of a guy in England making them, and I thought, why not try it?” says Hancock. “His designs are more elaborate because they can steer and whatnot. I just wanted to make a representation.”

Sourcing antique sewing machines is the easy part. Millions were made, so Hancock can find them listed for \$20 or even for free on Facebook Marketplace.

Before he can make the model, Hancock first disassembles the sewing machine and removes all small parts. “Most of the small

parts are repurposed for parts on the tractor such as headlights, control levers, and foot pedals,” he says. “Then I have to weld up a base and sandblast everything. I paint the parts before reassembly. This especially applies to the ones that are two colors.” It takes him 25 to 30 hrs. to make each model.

Hancock sells his model tractors locally for \$180. Shipping is possible but increases costs because the machines require a small plywood crate for protection. Contact him directly by email.

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