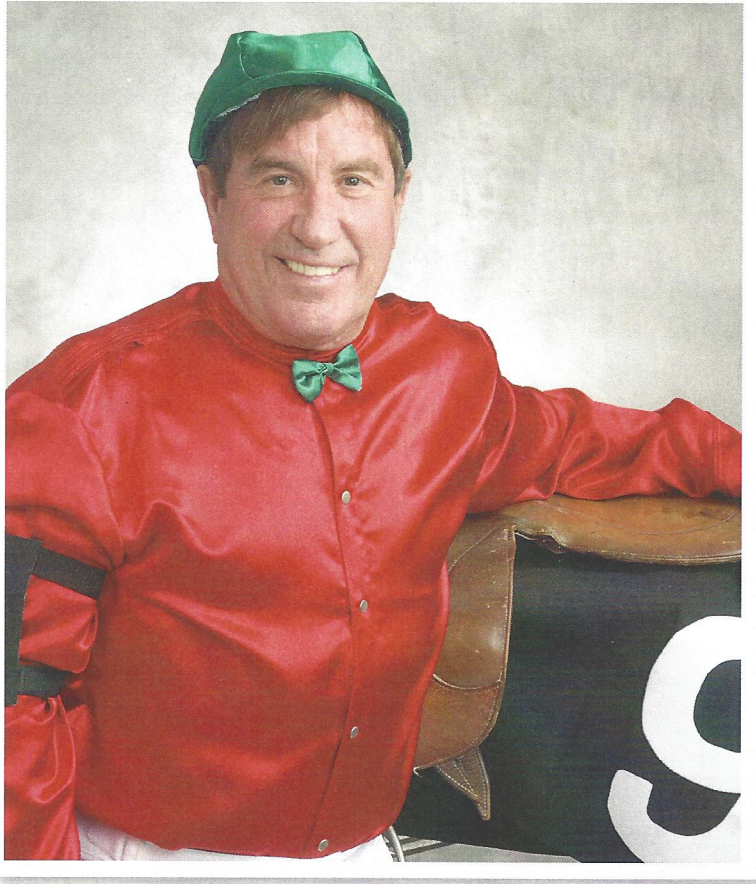


Kentucky Humanities
presents Eddie Price as
Roscoe Tarleton Goose
Kentucky Derby Winner



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Roscoe Tarleton Goose: Kentucky Derby Winner 1891-1971

Roscoe Tarleton Goose was born on a Jeffersontown, Kentucky farm in 1891. Rufus Ganz, his father and a Civil War veteran, changed the family surname to "Goose;" as Ganz was constantly misspelled "Gans," the German word for "goose."

After a particularly hard winter, Rufus decided the family was moving to the big city — Louisville. They moved into a small house in the Butchertown area. The Goose family was poor, and Rufus was going blind due to an injury suffered in the war, making it difficult for him to earn a living. Roscoe went to work at an early age, in an effort to help the family's finances.

His first job working with horses came when he began driving a horse and wagon delivering goods for a department store — driving to Germantown, Limerick, and Snitzelburg. He loved the horses!

Goose was a natural horseman. He was slight of build and fearless. While exercising horses at Churchill Downs, Goose was approached by trainer John Kuprion to ride as a jockey in the Hardin County Fair in Elizabethtown. He scored a number of second- and third-place finishes, solidifying his standing as a prominent young jockey. Soon after, Goose scored five out of six victories at the Kentucky State Fairgrounds races. Roscoe's early career was threatened to be cut short by "reformers," who wanted to ban the sport of horse racing and gambling associated with it. Believing horse racing would no longer take place in Kentucky, Goose moved to California to exercise horses and race as a jockey in Juarez, Mexico.

Goose moved back to Kentucky in 1910, and continued to win races and earn larger fees. By autumn of 1910, Roscoe Tarleton Goose was the leading money winning jockey at Churchill Downs and was one of the top riders in America. By 1913, he had attracted the attention of trainer and farm owner Thomas Patrick Hayes. Hayes had a horse called Donerail and wanted Goose to ride him in the Kentucky Derby. Roscoe agreed to train with Donerail, and rider and horse entered the 1913 Kentucky Derby.

In a stunning victory, Roscoe Tarleton Goose and Donerail won the 1913 Kentucky Derby. The odds were set at 91:1, the longest odds of a Derby winner, a record which still stands. After the Derby win of 1913, Goose continued his stellar racing career until his retirement in 1915 when his brother, also a jockey, was killed during a race. Roscoe became

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the first jockey to advocate the use of helmets for riders to improve the safety of the sport following his brother's death.

In 1961, Goose made headlines at the National Turfwriters Association banquet when Jimmy Winkfield, an African American jockey who had won Kentucky Derbies in 1901 and 1902, was given a cold reception during the banquet at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, which was segregated. Goose not only socialized with Winkfield and his daughter, but also invited the Winkfields to his private booth at Churchill Downs for the 1961 Kentucky Derby.

Roscoe Tarleton Goose died in Louisville in 1971.

To learn more about Roscoe Tarleton Goose:

Ruby, Earl, *The Golden Goose: Story of the Jockey Who Won the Most Stunning Kentucky Derby and then Became a Millionaire*, (1974).

New York Times, *Donerail Fast in Kentucky Derby*, (May 10, 1913).

Chicago Tribune, *Roscoe Goose, 80, Dies; Rode Derby Longshot*, (June 12, 1971).

Washington Post, *Goose Flew in Face of Odds*, (May 2, 1972).

The Presenter: Eddie Price

Roscoe Tarleton Goose is portrayed by Eddie Price of Hawesville. Price is a graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College and Western Kentucky University. He worked as a high school history teacher for more than 30 years and a part-time instructor at Owensboro Community & Technical College for 21 years. Price is the author of the award-winning historical fiction novel *Widder's Landing* and is a member of the Kentucky Humanities Speakers Bureau.

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