

# SPECIAL TRIBUTE JOHNNY MACK BROWN

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**THE ALL-AMERICAN COWBOY**



Photography by Jim Dorsey

**J**ohnny Mack Brown was perhaps the most prolific cowboy hero in the Golden Age of the Hollywood Western. In a career spanning almost 40 years, he appeared in more than 160 movies and a few TV shows. The majority of his movies were starring roles in B-Westerns and serials. He began his career in silent movies in 1927, appearing with many of the leading ladies of that era. In 1930, he starred as Billy the Kid in one of the earliest sound westerns. Not long after that, he determined that he liked working in westerns, outdoors, with horses, and that is when he got serious about being a cowboy!

Being from my home state, Johnny has always been one of my personal favorite cowboy stars. Born on September 4, 1904 in Dothan, AL, he became a star football player in high school, earning a scholarship to the University of Alabama where he became a very fast All-American halfback. He was known at that time as the Dothan Antelope. On January 1, 1926, Alabama came from behind to beat Washington in the Rose Bowl. Brown scored two touchdowns and was named the Most Valuable Player in that game. Alabama was named National Champions for 1926. It was about that time that he was discovered by Hollywood!

Recently, the Happy Trails Children's Foundation came into possession of a very valuable one-of-a-kind Johnny Mack Brown gun and holster. This outfit originally was a charity raffle to raise money for a cowboy shooter needing a heart transplant. This project was created and sponsored by Andy Fink, publisher of Shoot Magazine. It was the cover feature of the July/August 2001 issue. I always enjoyed Shoot Magazine and wish it was still available.



This gorgeous outfit is the result of the collaboration of many fine and extremely talented people who donated their time and talent to make this project a reality:

- The six-shooter is magnificent. It is a Cimarron, donated by my long-time friend, Mike Harvey. It has a 4 3/4" barrel, in .45 Colt caliber with a black powder frame.
- It was engraved with Johnny's name down the backstrap and Shoot Magazine on the ejector rod housing. Master Engraver Rachel Wells, of Prescott, AZ did the engraving.
- Jeff Collins did the magnificent job of silver and gold plating the gun.
- The action was custom-tuned by Dave Sample.
- The ultra-ivory grips were donated by Raj of Eagle Grips.
- Tracy Walters of Get-A-Grip, scrimshawed J.M.B. on the left panel and a scene of Johnny on his horse Rebel on the right panel.
- Dave Mazy did an outstanding job of polishing and fitting the grips.
- Long-time friend Lee Anderson of Heirlooms in Wood made the most extraordinary case for this gun that I have seen.
- Friend Walt Ostin of Custom Gun Leather in British Columbia crafted the gorgeous holster and belt, an exact replica of the rig that Johnny wore through most of his career in front of the cameras.
- Long-time friend of the foundation, Conrad Anderson, made and donated the sterling silver buckles on the belt and holster.

**TICKETS \$10 EACH  
OR 11 FOR \$100 US**

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WHEN ALL TICKETS SOLD**

**NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!**

Happy Trails Children's Foundation is proud to offer this magnificent Tribute to  
Johnny Mack Brown, the All-American cowboy!

By Joel "Dutch" Dortch

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THE WINNERS NAME WILL BE LISTED ON OUR WEBSITE.**

All proceeds benefit the Happy Trails Children's Foundation – Cooper Home for Abused Children.  
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