

Johnny Gilbert, jockey and trainer from Pittsburg, Kansas

This Associated Press photograph from April 1952 is of Johnny Gilbert, the nation's leading jockey in 1932. Gilbert's 18-year riding career came to an abrupt end in January 1951, when he suffered a broken neck in a racing accident at Santa Anita. He was paralyzed initially, and the injury was feared to be fatal. He eventually achieved a ninety percent recovery but he could no longer ride. This photo marks the beginning of his new career as a trainer.

Gilbert was born in Pittsburg, Kansas on August 6, 1914 with a birth name of John Dyer. He took the last name of Gilbert when he was adopted by Robert E. Gilbert, a Pittsburg veterinarian. He reportedly rode in his first races at the Crawford County Fair.

As a jockey, Gilbert competed in 9,133 races and won 1,499 of them. His mounts earned a total of \$3.4 million. In 1932, his best year, Gilbert had 212 wins.

Johnny Gilbert died in California in 1973.

The photo includes a typewritten caption and a Associated Press stamp on the reverse.

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(BAI) LAUREL, MD., APRIL 10.- NEW CAREER FOR GILBERT -- JOHNNY GILBERT, THE LITTLE SYRIAN JOCKEY WHO CHEATED DEATH IN A SPILL AT SANTA ANITA 15 MONTHS AGO. SHOWN WORKING AT HIS NEW CAREER AS A TRAINER. JOHNNY IS AS ANXIOUS TO SADDLE HIS FIRST WINNER AS A TRAINER AS HE WAS TO RIDE ONE HOME WHEN HE FIRST MOUNTED A RACE HORSE AS A 16-YEAR-OLD KID. AFTER 22 YEARS AROUND THE TRACKS, HE'S A BEGINNER ALL OVER AGAIN, BUT JOHNNY IS CONVINCED HE'LL DO AS WELL IN HIS NEW PROFESSION AS HE DID AS A JOCKEY. (4P WIREPHOTO) 1952

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