

Di Tommaso Galleries

August 4, 2000

Fine Art

Xavier K. McDonnell
Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street NW
Washington, DC. 20463

follow-up

RE: MUR 4818

Dear Sir:

This is a follow-up to our letter sent to you in response earlier (last June). Walt Roberts came in and brought us three more items of sculpture for consignment for sale. This time he also brought a framed (under glass with photos) older article on himself. It would appear that this is the same Walt Roberts out of Oklahoma, living now in California. With a bit of struggling, I have managed to copy the article for you, enclosed. Walt indicated that he would work up a newer biography in the future. He did not give me any of these older ones as hand-outs, just the framed copy.

Sincerely,

Julie Eynon

Julie Eynon
For Di Tommaso Galleries

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

AUG 7 3 10 PM '00



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Via Fax (480-945-0585) and First Class Mail

Di Tommaso Galleries
7141 E. Main Street
Scottsdale, Az 85251

June 22, 2000

RE: MUR 4818

Dear Sir or Madame:

The Federal Election Commission ("Commission") has the statutory duty of enforcing the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended. It has come to our attention that Di Tommaso Galleries may have information that will assist the Commission in a confidential investigation it is conducting. Specifically, Di Tommaso Galleries reportedly provided services/engaged in transactions with Walter ("Walt") Roberts-- formerly of McAlester, Oklahoma. Accordingly, the Office of General Counsel requests that you voluntarily identify and submit all documents related to any services/transactions with Walt Roberts from 1996 to the present. The requested documents include but are not limited to memoranda, contracts, agreements, checks, invoices, purchase orders, notes, correspondence, (including documents stored or generated on computer, e.g. e-mail).

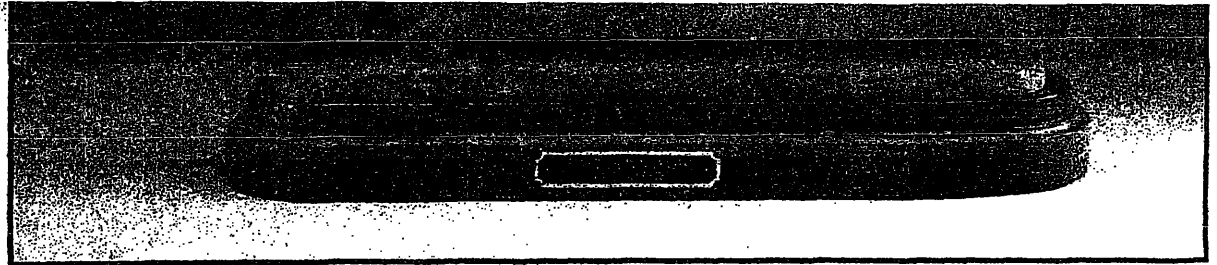
The Commission does not consider you a respondent in this matter, but rather a witness only. Because this information is being sought as part of an investigation being conducted by the Commission, the confidentiality provision of 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(12)(A) applies. That section prohibits making public any investigation conducted by the Commission without the express written consent of the person with respect to whom the investigation is made. You are advised that no such consent has been given in this case.

This Office requests that you voluntarily provide this information within twenty days of your receipt of this request. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this in more detail, please call me or Margaret Toalson, the other attorney handling this matter, at (800) 424-9530 or (202) 694-1650. Mark your cover letter MUR 4818. If you do not intend to comply with this request, please notify this Office right away.

Sincerely,

Xavier K. McDonnell
Attorney

2000 JUN 23 09:44 AM



WORLD CHAMPION FIRST DOWN DASH IMMORTALIZED IN BRONZE

First Down Dash is, truly, a phenomenon. Even owners of other stallions will testify, without animosity or hostility, to the greatness of the young horse. From three crops to race, he's sired three consecutive All American Futurity winners.

He's also proving his worth through his three-year-olds who are returning to victories in their derby seasons.

As noted at the beginning, this editorial marks a departure from the usual content of our *Stallion Register*. The second departure from our usual format is the fact that we have used a photograph of the bronze of First Down Dash. Traditionally, we do not devote our

cover to a horse who is still living. This horse, however, seems to merit a reconsideration in that direction.

The official AQHA records list B.F. Phillips, Jr. and A.F. Stanley, Jr. as the breeders of First Down Dash. It was sculptor Walt Roberts of McAlester, Oklahoma who received the commission to reproduce the stallion in a 32-inch long and 24-inch tall bronze which is one-fifth life size.

Roberts, who was born and raised in Oklahoma in his family's ranching/cattle business, received both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in prison administration. "McAlester is rather a prison mecca," he laughed, "and my family has been involved in the system as far back as I can remember."

Prior to entering college, Roberts made a living by playing the fiddle professionally; accompanying some of the leading country/western bands. He kept his fiddle tuned while he was in school, graduated, worked in law enforcement for a little more than a year and then, at the age of 24, was elected to the Oklahoma House Of Representatives. He served three terms for a total of six years, leaving politics a year ago to pursue what has always been a serious interest—sculpting. At the age of 31, he's managed to make a lasting mark in

First Down Dash—
Bronze with a
framed history
of his
accomplishments
is given to everyone
purchasing the
bronze.

more than one area of expertise. Oh, he's also a livestock auctioneer!

"Sculpting has always been something that's totally intrigued me," said Roberts. "I've had no formal art training, but I have had the good fortune to spend time with some of the finest Western artists in the country—people such as Mehl Lawson, Grant Speed and Bob Moline. Chris Verner was instrumental in helping me get started with supplies, material and inspiration.

"I made a trip to Dallas. I was visiting Bob and we decided to go into an art store. I bought what I needed and started sculpting. My first piece was a buckaroo fiddle player. It was an edition of 20 and it sold out.

"Sculpting is the first time in my life that I'm totally consumed by something. When I'm doing it, I lose all perception of time."

Roberts has finished eight pieces during the past year in editions ranging from 20 to 50. His work is represented by one gallery in Arizona, two in California and one in Oklahoma but, still, he sells most of his own work.

"First Down Dash has been my biggest project to date," he said, "both in terms of physical dimensions and prestige. Sculpting First Down Dash came about through Fred (Stanley) who was a colleague of mine in the State Legislature. He told me about the horse, and I'd also followed his career on my own.

"I'd just finished a piece of a Navajo medicine man, and I was looking for a new subject. That's always a difficult task. I was definitely in the market for a new idea, and I became more and more interested in First Down Dash.

Roberts decided to accept the challenge. Speedhorse released the photo file of First Down Dash to him, and he also made a trip to California to use the stallion as a live model.

"The photos definitely helped," he said. "We wanted to sculpt the horse racing, but obviously, his physical condition as a stallion standing at stud is different from when he was on the track. I settled on a photo which showed him crossing the finish line, and incorporated that with the live horse.

"It was really an experience to study the pictures. His pose in the bronze shows him with his right hind foot on the ground, and the other three feet off the ground as if he's literally flying. The really intriguing element was that the three race photos I used—and all three were from different races—showed him with that same one foot on the ground and the other three in the air."

Roberts worked on the piece constantly for two months. It was a consuming challenge to capture the muscle masses and translate them into speed and motion. "Capturing the likeness and personality of a horse in a painting is far different from trying to capture it in bronze," he said. "A bronze can turn out to be just any horse."

"I used detailed measurements so the finished piece would be totally accurate in terms of proportions. The sculpture is one-fifth life size, and I'm absolutely confident it could be enlarged five times and the final result would be an exact replica of First Down Dash's body.

"I was excited when the piece was finished. I looked at it and I knew it was him. It was First Down Dash with a rustic red patina and a white patina for his markings. I'm convinced any one who knows the horse will recognize him immediately.

Mounted on a base of black marble and walnut, the impressive sculpture measures 32 inches long from tail to muzzle and 24 inches tall. It was unveiled at the Vessels/Schvaneveldt Sale in October.

The piece was done in an edition of 50 and,

according to

Roberts, they are selling out rapidly. It was presented at the first syndicate meeting and

many of the syndicate members who

were present purchased one.

There are also people who were unable to acquire

a share in the horse who have managed to acquire a bronze.

"It was a wonderful experience," said Roberts.

"Seeing the finished piece and knowing I'd done a good job was really thrilling."

Frank "Scoop" Vessels was extremely helpful and excited about

the project and when he viewed it for the first time, he was

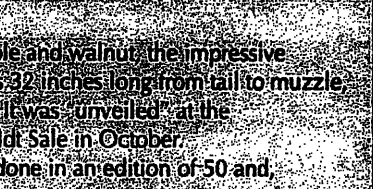
delighted with the likeness.

Now, once again, the fiddler turned law

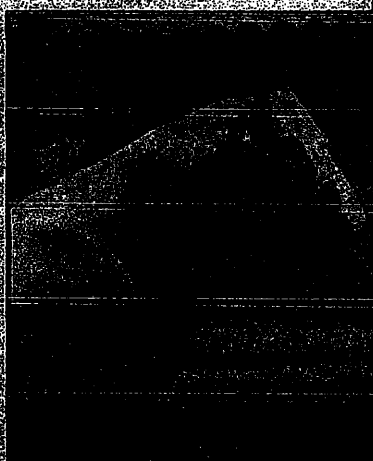
enforcer turned politician turned sculptor is in the market for a new

idea.

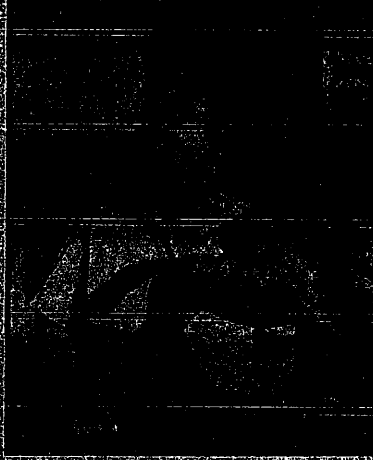
For information regarding the art of Walt Roberts, you may contact him at (918) 423-2092.



Walt Roberts' sculpture of First Down Dash is accurate.



Walt Roberts' sculpture of First Down Dash.



Frank "Scoop" Vessels and Walt Roberts.