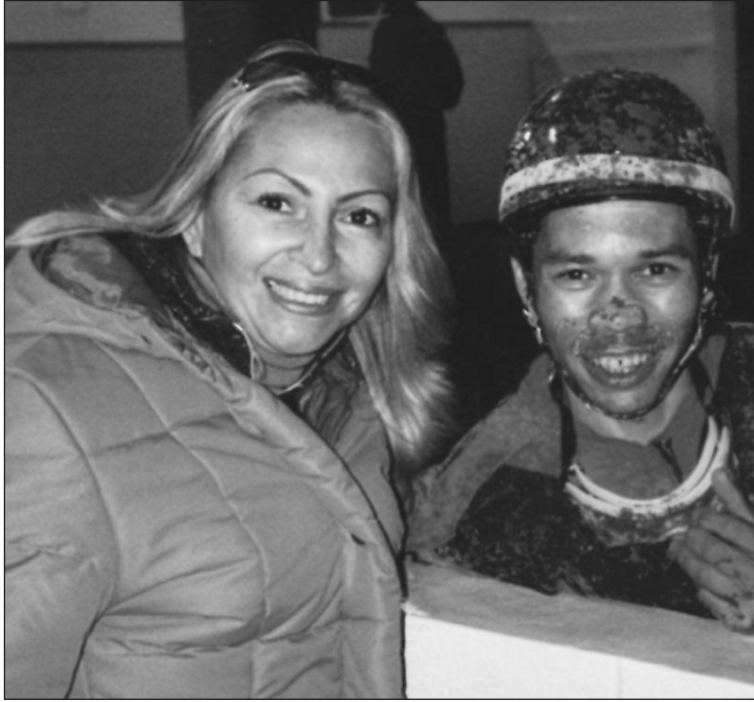


Former horse race jockey Elliott Demesme got his start in Inland Empire



IECN PHOTO COURTESY Ed Ahrens

A fan with Elliott Demesme at Los Alamitos race track.

Contributed by Ed Ahrens

Elliott Demesme, former jockey for over eighteen years lived and worked in many Inland Empire cities such as Loma Linda, Riverside, Norco and Corona during much of the 1980s. "I was born in Compton, California in 1965 and moved to the Riverside area to work on various horse race farms. I exercised young horses preparing them to have racing careers," remembered Elliott.

Elliott, as a younger became interested in bull riding and idolized Charlie Sampson, a champion on the rodeo circuit.

"I loved horse at a early age and people always encouraged me to become a rider because of my stature. However, I first became active as a bullrider at the small rodeos in Southern California prior to starting my horse race riding career," stated Elliott.

Elliott won his first thoroughbred race at a "A" level race track at Turf Paradise, Arizona aboard TRUE MONEY in 1995. Demesme had previously won races on the Arizona fair circuit in the early 1990s that were not recognized in official stats at that time by the American Racing Board and Daily Racing Form.

Demesme rode at twenty-seven different race tracks, in five states and competed against some of the greatest jockeys at major tracks such as Santa Anita, Hollywood Park, Del Mar, Fairplex, Bay Meadows and Golden Gate.

"I rode against name riders such as Laffit Pincay Jr. Eddie Delahoussaye, Russell Baze, Cory Nakatani, Chris McCarron, Kent Desormeaux, Pat Valenzuela and Victor Espinosa during my career," said Elliott.

The versatile Demesme rode all breeds of racing animals including thoroughbreds, arabians, mules, quarter and appaloosas during his lengthy career.

Elliott rarely rode quarter horses but scored his biggest stakes victory aboard MEXICAN RADIO at Hualapai Downs in Kingman, Arizona on May 12, 2002.

"I hadn't ridden a quarter horse in a race since 1998 but the scheduled jockey did not appear so I was asked by trainer Raul Hernandez to ride MEXICAN RADIO. The purse was \$38,500 and we were lucky enough to win. MEXICAN RADIO set a track record that still exists for 330 yards in 16.41 seconds," explained Demesme.

Demesme' best year statistically riding thoroughbreds was 2001 when he had twenty-four wins, nineteen seconds and twenty-one thirds.

"I rode mostly longshots at the big tracks during my career but always gave the public their monies worth on every ride. In fact in 2005, I won with the longshot CONSTANTLY THE MAN at Golden Gate on my birthday at odds 58-1 and one month later scored with 35-1 TRIOLA at Pleasanton," remembered Elliott.

Thoroughbred trainer George Yniguez offered his opinion about Elliott.

"Demesme was always hard working and was always quick with a smile. He was fun to be around. I will always be grateful to Elliott because in the mid 1990s, he introduced me to trainer Scott Craigmyle at Pomona race track. I quickly became an assistant to Craigmyle and a licensed trainer in a few short years."

Being a cowboy at heart, Elliott has a soft spot for the old Arizona fair circuit in cities such as Sonoita, Douglas, Safford, Yuma, Duncan and Kingman.

"I loved riding at those tracks and was the leading rider at Kingman and Duncan in 2005 and received belt buckles for my efforts," grinned Elliott.

Demesme was one of the few African American jockeys that competed on a regular basis on the West Coast circuit.

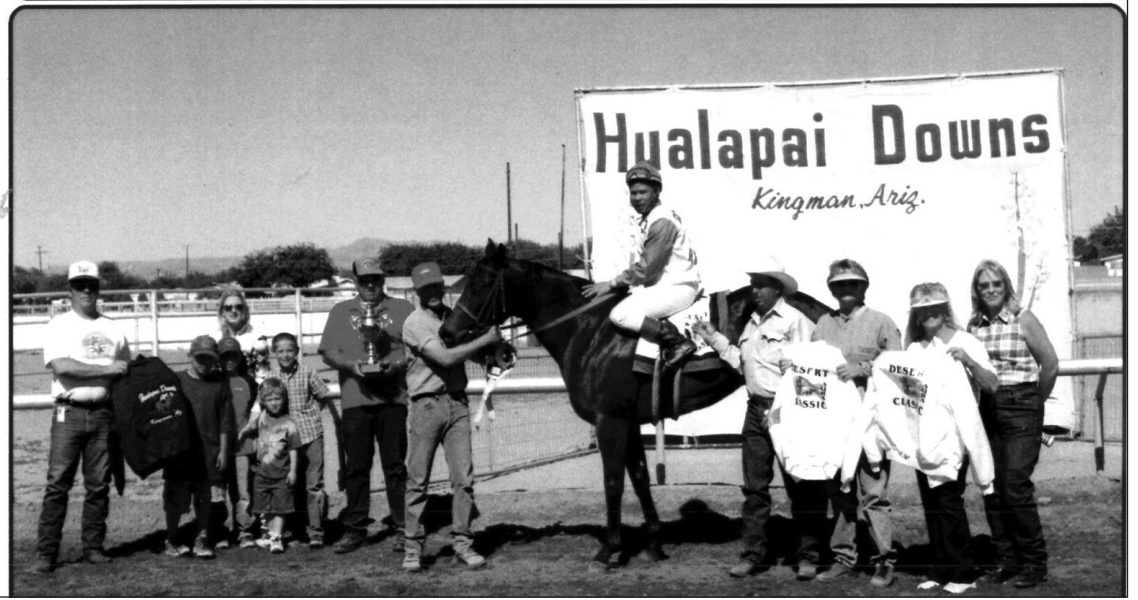
"I read some years ago in the Daily Racing Form that in the first twenty-eight years of the prestigious Kentucky Derby that African American jockeys won fifteen times. I know that jockey Kevin Krigger from the U.S. Virgin Islands is expected to ride Goldencents in this year's Kentucky Derby," explained Elliott.

Demesme is currently working as a exercise rider at Pleasanton race track in Northern California but has other aspirations.

"I worked with youngsters in the Compton area in the late 1990s and early 2000s teaching them horseback riding and animal husbandry. I am trying to get a non profit riding center started for boys and girls ages 10-17 in Oakland and Richmond. My hope as a instructor is to have twenty kids a day riding and learning about horses. It rewarding to see the smiles on the faces of boys and girls when they work with animals. I believe it's important for kids to first love themselves and later other living things," said Elliott.



ARIZONA COUNTY FAIR RACING Kingman, Arizona <small>DOUBLE B PHOTOGRAPHY ©2002</small>	MEXICAN RADIO	
	MARILOU KELLY OWNER	A SIGNATURE OF FAME 2ND
	RAUL HERNANDEZ TRAINER	2-7 A FANCY FIRST CHICK 3RD
	ELLIOTT DEMESME UP 330 YDS.	TIME: 16.41 MAY 12, 2002
<i>Elliott Demesme</i>		THE 2002 DESERT CLASSIC FUTURITY TOTAL PURSE: \$38,500 NEW TRACK RECORD



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