

Ruth Drips

Ruth Drips was born with wanting to ride anything she could find. That included her father's draft horses, mules, uncle's and cousin's ponies and cousin's 4-H calves. Her father told her she could have a pony when she weighed 80 pounds. She ate and ate but couldn't get to 80 pounds.

Finally at age six, her father surprised her with a 4 year old, 44 inch, half Welsh and half Shetland, dabbled Chestnut pony, with a white mane and tail. But her father was very upset and was going to take the pony back because when he rode her, the pony bucked him off. When her father wasn't looking, Ruth rode the pony and wouldn't let him take the pony back. Ruth named the pony Silver. Her father taught her to ride in the evenings after he came in from working in the fields. Soon after, she was showing the spirited Silver and won many blue ribbons.

Ruth progressed to showing bigger half saddlebred ponies, Sonny Boy and Daisy Mae, never placing below third. When she was 15, her first 3-gaited horse, a 4 year old named Maid Of Honor was purchased from Ed Barham. At that time, there were no amateur, Ladies or juvenile classes, so she began showing against trainers and often in large classes up to 25 entries. But the trainers were always nice and looked out for her, even when she had to show against her own trainer. Maid of Honor proved to be an excellent show horse. She was just the kind of horse that Ruth always preferred, one that was 'up and a coming' and had a lot of life. Ruth kept this mare until she died at the age of 26. Ruth then decided to never keep a horse that long again. Next she went on to show in the 5 gaited division, with Lady of Genius and Persia Ann, both 4-year olds.

For 15 years Ruth did not have a horse but attended horse shows with her parents. She preferred younger horses and later bought, showed, and sold 2, 3, and 4 year old horses. These horses included Spindrift, Sultan's Irish Lace, Summerfield's Spectacular Lady, Shadow's Untouchable, Shiloh's Moment, and Just One More Time. They were shown in 3-gaited, Pleasure, and Park Pleasure classes. These mounts brought many

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ribbons, trophies and championships for Ruth during her 40 years of showing horses. She has shown in seven states throughout the Midwest.

Ruth showed under many trainers, including Cash Lovell Sr., Mouse Yoder, Bill Caldwell, Willard Elliott, Marvin Lester, Sonny Sutton, Mark Hulse, Wyatt Dehart and Liz Kenney at Dr. Raun's, and Virgil Helm. Ruth sold her last horse 4 years ago.

Ruth graduated from Stephens College and the University of Iowa with a degree in Office Management. She worked 33 years in the office at Armstrong's Department Store in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Ruth lives in Marion, Iowa and continues to attend and enjoy all the big shows.

Ruth's parents were very supportive of her horse endeavors and traveled to many horse shows that she participated in. Her Dad always kidded her that "If only I'd gotten an old plug the first time, it would have saved me alot of money". Ruth and her parents met many fine people at the horse shows and barns, throughout the years. They all believed that horse shows make a fine family activity.

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As most of you know, I have been shoeing horses in this area for many years. During that time it has been my pleasure and privilege to work with many of the top trainers in the midwest. Bud Kinney, Chat Nichols, Ed Teater, Bob Jensen, and Gib Marcucci, where some of the trainers that trusted me with their shoeing needs. Having an opportunity to work on world champion horses such as Belle Elegant, Rebel Heir, Ramblin' Gal, Lucky Cuss, Irish American, and many of the world champion ponies that Gib had, are among my favorite memories.

Wanting to share some of my knowledge and experience with other farriers around the country, I produced and marketed an instructional video on the shoeing of the American Saddlebred, and have written articles published in national horse magazines.

I am indeed happy and honored I was invited to become part of the Iowa Horsemen's Hall of Fame, and will take my place there representing not just myself, but also my Dad and brother who taught me the trade, and my two sons to whom I've passed it on.

Jack Banghart