

Julie's lifelong love affair with horses began early - at the age of three she asked for a saddle for her birthday, apparently assuming that if she had a saddle, a pony was sure to follow! Julie grew up in Ames where she took dressage and jumping lessons from German Equestrian Team member, Heinz Kramp. Julie got her first horse on her ninth birthday - a black Saddlebred mare named Lady Jet. "Lady had quite a career", Julie says. "I showed her to Level Two in dressage, jumped her over cross country event courses, taught her to pull an old buggy and, after discovering that she was lightening fast, competed against the quarter horses in barrel racing for three summers! In addition, Lady Jet produced four beautiful foals." The first foal was Gala Commander, a bay gelding Julie trained herself and showed in English Pleasure classes in the 1960's. "Horse shows were very different in those days", according to Julie. "There were shows every weekend somewhere in Iowa - sometimes we would show in one town on Saturday, go home and then get up early the next morning to head to a different show on Sunday! All our horses were trained to stand tied to a trailer, since most locations didn't have stalls."

In recent years, Julie has shown a number of Saddlebreds both under saddle and in driving classes, including Desert's Supreme Rhythm, Glendale's Royal Irish, Callaway's Curtain Call, and her current mount, Max Millennium. She also enjoyed watching trainer Rob Kritzler show her horses New World Man and Social Engagement.

Julie likes to help coach the young academy and show riders who ride with her at Stefanie and Rob Kritzler's Green Wood Stables, and says that she especially values the many friends she has come to know through showing horses.

Julie served as co-chair of the Des Moines Springfest Show for several years, and is currently the Manager of the Iowa Summer Spectacular Horse Show. She is a member of the IHSA, Iowa American Saddlebred Association, ASHA and the USEF.

She wishes to thank the Iowa Horsemen's Hall of Fame for the honor of being a 2008 inductee.

Merle E. White

Merle E. White passed away on November 28, 1965 in Cedar Falls of complications of a heart condition. He was born November 5, 1898, in Crawfordsville, the son of Harry H. and Sarah Ritchey White.

Merle was a famous saddle horse showman, trainer and judge for 55 years. He was an employee of Glenn C. Bown of Clear Quill Farms in Waterloo. Mr. White was a senior judge of American Saddle Horse Association of New York. He represented the Iowa Saddle Horse Association in the Waterloo area for two years, and was manager/director of the horse department of the National Dairy Cattle Congress for a three-year period.

Mr. White married Ferne Timmons, September 15, 1935, in Kansas City, Missouri. At the time of his passing he was survived by his widow; a step son Chief Warrant Officer Richard K. Timmons, of the Marine Corps Air Station at Yuma, Arizona; two sisters, Mrs. Freda Closson and Mrs. Rhea Duncan; three brothers, Kenneth White, Vernon White, and Carlton White, and three grandchildren.

Early in Dr. Alan Raun's career he worked with Merle for Mr. Bown. Don Clark had horses stabled at Clear Quill Farm for a while and was a friend of Merle and Ferne. There were several adventures I had with Uncle Merle during the summers while my parents went on their fishing trips. They were always eventful and involved show horses, show ponies, or harness racers.

One unusual story about Merle that possibly could be true occurred in Chicago where he worked at a riding academy across from some "garage." I do know that Uncle Merle received a case of Canadian whiskey every Valentine's Day. My dad said it was probably for keeping quiet. For Uncle Merle that would have been hard to do in normal circumstances.