

TANCY COLBURN BECKER

Tancy Colburn Becker's lifetime involvement with horses, particularly American Saddlebreds, began under the influence of her father, Iowa Horseman's Hall of Fame member Duane L. Colburn. He sat her on Rex, the family Shetland pony, led her around the farmstead, and the toddler's future with horses was set in motion. Rex was followed by Tony, and then by several Welsh ponies, the most special of which was Wink's Heirloom, a product of Bill Winkelman's breeding operation. Flying around the farm bareback was her greatest delight.

Observing Tancy's love of and dedication to all things equine, Duane and Frances (Tancy's mom) began the 90-minute weekly trips to Dick Wallen's stable in Sioux City for riding lessons when Tancy was 6. Tancy quickly showed an affinity for the discipline of equitation, and with Dick's instruction and the 3 great equitation horses he trained for her (Overlook Stonewall, My Command, and Shannon Dare), she won most of the major equitation classes at shows in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.

As a juvenile and then amateur rider, she showed in 3-gaited pleasure (Lady Marina, Indigo, Wild Song's Sashay), 5-gaited pleasure (Longview's Echo), 5-gaited (Magic Mirror, Glory to Love, Misty Breeze, Pascale, Wing Tip, Denmark's Heritage), 3-gaited (Scarlett Supreme, Shannon Dare, Glory to Love), and fine harness (Wing Tip). She was a sought-after catch-rider.

Because her dad sent many young horses from the family's Wild Song Farm breeding operation to trainers across the country, Tancy received instruction from and showed under such trainers as Bill Sutton, Fritz Jordan, and Jim B. Robertson at shows such as Devon, Rock Creek, and Harrodsburg. She also showed horses owned under the partnership of her dad and Alan Raun. In recent years her trainers have been Rob Kritzler and Scott & Carol Matton. She will debut her new walk-trot mare, Mia Thermopolis, in 2022.

Believing in giving back to the industry and breed, Tancy has served as Secretary and on the board of the Iowa American Saddlebred Futurity; as Secretary, Vice President, President, and on the board of the Iowa Horse Shows Association; as a member of the IHSA Judge's Review committee; and as a long-time member of the IASA, ASHBA, USEF, UPHA Associates, and ASB Museum. She is a ready volunteer as needed at Iowa shows.

Tancy resides with her husband Bruce in her hometown of Sac City, Iowa. After attending the University of Virginia (BA) and the University of Iowa (MA), she joined her brother in the family insurance agency, Colburn & Son, Inc. (est. 1914) as 4th generation agency owners. Her interest has always been in providing equine insurance to horse and stable owners. Tancy is an inductee into the Sac City Community School Hall of Fame, and has served on the Sac City Library Board and Sac City's Loring Hospital Board.

The family tradition has been continued with daughter Lora Becker, whose love of horses and equitation took her through the academy years on to a winning career on the national equitation stage, showing CH-EQ Royal Tryst to wins at national shows such as Lexington and Midwest, and finishing in the top 10 of all 3 national equitation finals several times.

