

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.