

Kenneth's love for horses started when he was a little boy. His grandfather, George Boyce, would let him ride on his team of Belgians when coming in from the fields. Ever since Kenneth was able to walk, he had a pony. His grandmother, Josie, saw how much he loved horses. She bought him his own horse and a new saddle, at age 13. He enjoyed teaching his ponies tricks. He taught his first horse "Gold Count", 18 different tricks ranging from lying down, kneeling, to sitting up. Growing up as a teenager and into an adult, Kenneth always shod his own horses. He and his friends would ride for miles and into the early morning after work.

After getting married, Kenneth continued to go to fun shows, trail rides and he tried to influence all of his children to ride horses. His daughter, Sarah, enjoyed fun shows and 4-H. His son, David, was content with riding and driving the ponies now and then. Susan enjoyed the ponies, when she was a little girl. His daughters, Cheryl and Charlotte, had the love for horses their father did. Later, they would help with the training and showing of his horses.

In 1972, the Ranney family showed Sin Mystic+// for the first time. It was while at Cattle Congress in Waterloo, Iowa, a knowledgeable horse equestrian, Carole Gauger, saw Sin Mystic+//. Not long after seeing Sin Mystic+// at this show, Carole went to Kenneth's home and said this horse is exceptional. Looking back, Carole was so right. Sin Mystic+// became Kenneth's family's most prized stallion. Carole said she needed a horse to show the next year. Therefore, Kenneth said Carole could become the primary one to show Sin Mystic+// in 1973. In 1974 thru 1986, Sin Mystic+// was shown by the Ranney family. Sin Mystic+// earned enough performance points in the Arabian Horse Association to receive the Legion of Excellence Award. Sin Mystic+// was Top Ten Arabian Mounted Native Costume at the Canadian Nationals in 1980. He had multiple Top 20's at the U.S. Nationals in Native Costume, English Pleasure, and Pleasure Driving. He had numerous Regional Championships. Sin Mystic+// was IAHA High Point Native Costume Champion, IAHA High Point Driving Champion, IAHA High Point English Pleasure Champion, and IAHA Overall High Point Champion for several years. The Ranney family knew Sin Mystic+// was a once in a lifetime show horse.

While showing Sin Mystic+//, Kenneth continued to produce and improve his line of Arabian horses for 23 years. Kenneth and his daughters always trained all the horses themselves. All the horses were first trained to drive, and then they were ridden. Kenneth's real passion in life is to breed, raise, train, and show

his own horses by himself or with his family. The versatility of the Arabian horse and later the Morgan was exhibited by the Ranney family. They enjoyed multiple wins in Pleasure and Formal Driving, Hunt and Saddleseat English, Mounted Native Costume, Park Horse, and Western Pleasure. Through the years, many of his horses also received numerous Regional Championships.

During the 80's and until today, Kenneth has had two champion Morgans. Both of these horses were gifted to Kenneth, from loved ones, due to death or serious injury. They knew he would train, use and show their horses, as well as, make them the champions they could be. The most recent Morgan "Dances Black Magic" is still being shown by Kenneth today. In 2008, "Dancees Black Magic" was High Point Overall Morgan Horse at the Minnesota State Fair.

Once Kenneth's children matured and their lives changed, he was fortunate again. He had a granddaughter, Erin Runde, who loves to show horses as much as Kenneth does. They now show Erin's Arabians and Kenneth's Morgan and Arabian.

Today Kenneth is 79 years young. He rides his Morgan 10's of miles a week and drives his Morgan and Arabian even more miles than that every week. Above all, he loves to show his horses. The biggest supporter and hero Kenneth has had, thru all these years, is his beloved wife, Joanne. She was the behind the scene worker doing everything from chores, building fences, to being the groomer at horse shows. Kenneth and Joanne have been married for 58 years and they have lived in Nora Springs, Iowa for 48 years.

TALKING POINTS FOR INTRODUCTION TO MARGARET VAN VARK

[Bob Leu will begin with his own comments about Margaret as a pioneer in the horse world – she was teaching and showing horses at a time when few women were involved]

- Margaret got into the horse business by chance – she didn't intend to fall in love with horses and teaching people to ride and show, but she did.
- In 1938, she went out to the Crawford Stables at the Iowa State Fairgrounds to do some trail riding with a girlfriend.
- This was one of the first times she'd ever ridden and she loved it – she kept coming back.
- It didn't take long before she decided she'd like to teach saddleseat riding. She learned to teach by asking questions and watching other trainers.
- Margaret started teaching in 1940. Some of her students just wanted to learn to ride. Some wanted to show their horses. She taught them all.
- Thanks to her skill as a teacher many of her students went on to develop a life-long love of riding and many learned how to show their horses with great success.
- Margaret took primarily American Saddlebred horses with her students to Iowa shows: LeMars, Mason City, Eldon, and always to the National Dairy Cattle Congress in Waterloo and the Iowa State Fair. Many little towns held fantastic one day shows back then.
- She had many students over the years and still remembers quite a few.
- Barry Yount was one of her most successful students. Margaret taught Barry to ride and show when he was just 9 years old after his father bought him a show pony. Margaret found Barry to be an excellent equestrian with a natural talent.
- Barry went on to own and operate a very successful stable in Altoona, Iowa, before moving to Arizona. Margaret was always very proud of Barry and thrilled to have had a hand in getting him started.
- Margaret taught girls at Drake how to ride through a PE class. One year she had 52 students – and 10 horses, which required a bit of juggling but she managed.

- Margaret had the Drake girls for 6 weeks. Many of the girls had never ridden before, but by the end of those 6 weeks she had them riding like they'd been doing it all their lives.
- Margaret did a great deal of riding and showing herself.
- She remembers two horses with great affection. Suzette le Rose is the beautiful horse you see in the photo with Margaret as her beautiful rider. Suzette was a 3-gaited American Saddlebred horse that belonged to one of Margaret's students. Margaret showed Suzette many times.
- Then there was Babe, a black American saddle horse. As Margaret says, "Babe was so smart it was just terrible." Margaret laughs when she recalls how Babe somehow found every blade of grass when ridden by others – but never by her.
- Margaret showed horses around Iowa and always at the Iowa State Fair. Two of her biggest thrills came when she showed horses at the Denver Western and at the Chicago International. Margaret showed Saddlebred 3 and 5 gaited horses. Margaret will say that Crawford was just "a po-dunk little stables, but we were COMPETITORS!"
- She has very fond memories of her years of teaching and showing and still keeps tabs on the horse world. She still goes to horse shows whenever she can, and especially enjoys seeing the Des Moines Springfest.
- Margaret enjoys watching her good friend Joanne Weiner who won her first World's Championship this past year. Margaret has also followed the riders of Mark and Renae Van Zomeren's Timber Hills Farm. She has been a huge fan of Allison Vermeer.
- And so ladies and gentlemen, we have here before us a remarkable 94-year-old lady who pioneered a path in our horse industry as a riding instructor and great horsewoman. She has influenced students with the love of the American Saddlebred and the sport of riding. We can admire her sturdy dedication to improving people's lives through the love of a horse.