

I am honored to be nominated and inducted into the Iowa Horseman's Hall of Fame and wish to thank all who made this award possible for me.

My love for horses began early in life, growing up around draft horses weighing about 2000 plus pounds. My father, Vic Holzworth, pulled heavy weight horses (winning the State Fair several times and doing well at Nationals), until he gave it up for me to have the opportunity to show.

The first show was when I took my Pony to Douds with the pulling team. Having no idea of a right or left lead, two very kind ladies worked with me so I could enter the show and attempt the correct leads.

Trial rides, local shows, parades, and just the love to ride at home took a lot of my time. My father purchased a pony that I could go in parades and later show the parade pony class. The next purchase was a horse called Sapphador. He allowed me participation in many Horse Shows and Rodeo Queen Contests. Ace was my next big step to horse showing. Then I started riding horses I raised and continue this year riding one of the colts. ( He's the third generation.)

Winnings throughout the years include: American Royal, National Cattle Congress, Iowa State Fair, High Point in Iowa Stock Horse, Iowa Horse Show, Iowa Quarter Horse, and the Iowa State Fair Queen Contests plus the Fort Madison Rodeo.

Iowa Stock Horse, Iowa Horse Show, and the Iowa Quarter Associations have allowed me to meet some wonderful people who always were ready to give you a helping hand and they have increased my appreciation for the different breeds.

Thank you again for this honor.

Sincerely,

Nancy Holzworth Robertson

In 1960 grandparents, Cliff and Virginia Capp purchased Mike his first Shetland. He was one year old. Grandpa Cliff broke the Shetland to drive and the three were off to the local shows. Later, two younger brothers, Pat and Kelly, would show with the family.

The Iowa State Fair Horse Show was always a fun time. During the fair, the tack room became their hotel room. If the walls of the barn could talk, it would tell you about all the pranks and games That was played. As young as five, Mike would be in the back of the horse barn watching and talking to John Dacken and his wife Pearl. John was the official State Fair horse shoer . John taught Mike to shoe and Mike still shoes his own horses.

In 1979, Mike married a girl who loved horses as much as he did, Kim Wolf. They moved to Adel, IA and developed Herron's Training Stable. The stables has always been a family operation with Mike, wife Kim, son Colby, daughter Michelle along with his son in law Whitney and granddaughter Peyton.

Herron Stables has had National and World Champions in all the different breeds including Miniatures, Shetlands, Hackneys, Road Horse and Saddlebreds. Some of Mike's favorites from over The years have been WC Lightspeed, WC Arostar, RWC High Flyer's Lil Griff, WC Ring Leader, Southern Diplomat, Capp's Hutch, Dun Haven Radiant Spirit and 2010 ASPR Horse of the Year Mighty Boomerang.

Kentucky is known as horse country. Years ago, Mike entered a 3-year-old cob tail at Louisville Kentucky. It was a class of 20 of the best horses in the country. The top five were from Iowa. Mike's cob tail placed third behind two of the biggest influences in his training career and that was Gib Marccucci And Doc Raun. For years Iowa has produce the top horses and Hackney ponies in the US.

Mike would like to thank his wife Kim, Son Colby and daughter Michelle for the their love, hard Work, dedication and to say how proud he is to be in the Iowa Horseman's Hall of Fame.