

Tom and Gloria Paulsen's horse hobby started with Tom wanting a horse. This was all possible because Gloria's parents Howard and Frances Brunskill were on a farm. Gloria's sister and brother-in-law, Harlan and Marilyn Jesse hopped on the wagon and we found ourselves at the Waverly sale buying two horses. Having no trailer did not seem like a problem we rode them 30 miles home. The pretty one was not really broke but learned on the trail ride home, the other was so old he barely made it. That was 1975.

This lead to several horses and the inevitable saddlebred. Being from Cedar Falls the Society Show at the National Dairy Cattle Congress had left an impression on all of us. Our first trip in the show ring was buying a bred mare from Orville Steffenson and as we are shoving her in a too small trailer he said "by the way there is a little show and the colt is nominated." Rather naively we showed up at the Iowa State Fair only to find out the Futurity was indeed a huge deal, over 80 nominated and almost as many showing, we got an 8th place and we were thrilled. We never missed a State Fair after that. We apologize for all of the plastic spiders dangled in your face. Out of those futurity colts came Absolutely Thrilling (Abby) that Milt Gauger trained and both of our sons, Chuck and Clif showed for several years. Max James invited us to ride in his manure spreader while he drove the tractor down in the field to find Abby's mother. That year we bred six mares to Gib Hollingsworth's stallion Uptown Commander. Over the years we have had three stallions on the farm. We have raised and purchased many horses. Some of those horses were show horses and many of them we had hoped they would be show horses.

The horses lead us to remodeling an old dairy barn to accommodate the horses. Baling a lot of hay, picking a lot of stalls at the farm Gloria grew up on. Howard encouraged our project and was always in the car when we left on a horse trip. Howard died the day he was supposed to leave on a trip to Kentucky with Milt Gauger something he loved to do. Tom and Gloria have since moved back to the home place to continue the horse hobby.

Tom loves the driving horses and has had many good years in the ring with harness horses and harness ponies. CH Sweetheart of Sigma Phi and Romeo's Cavalier are just two that have given us thrills (sometimes good and sometimes bad) over the years. Several futurity foals and Limited Breeders stake foals. In order to support the hobby Tom is a CPA.

Gloria grew up with the horses and loves them. She has had the fun of going to the show. The horse hobby lead to being the secretary and Superintendent of the Cattle Congress Society Horse Show. She also managed the Ride for Pride Horse show and now manages the Iowa Fall Classic Horse Show. Gloria was a Business Education teacher.

We have had horses with many trainers over the years, Max and Dave James, Milt Gauger, Bill Sutton, Roger Lucas and Wyatt DeHart have all taken us to the show ring. We have branched out to Hackney ponies, and a Morgan. The reason this hobby has lasted so long has been family and many horse friends. We loved packing up Howard and the boys and going to the shows. Our vacation was going to horse shows or horse sales.

We met at the University of Northern Iowa when we were students, but both of our sons graduated from Iowa State University and came back to Cedar Falls. Chuck is a banker married to Jen. Clif is a veterinarian and married to Debbie. Both of them still show and are active on the Futurity board. But the best is the 4th generation, our grandchildren, Tommy, Sutton and Fisher who are now showing.