

Susan was a horse crazy little girl. She read every horse story she could get her hands on. For her 10th birthday she got a very special gift – 5 riding lessons! The horses she got to ride were American Saddlebreds.

As adults Susan and John's involvement with Saddlebreds came when daughter Kate's Girl Scout Troop visited Vikki Vogel's Heartland Stables. Kate began taking lessons and was soon joined by Susan and her sister Kristin. John was the longest holdout but Kate and Kristin convinced him to try riding during a Heartland trail ride. Unfortunately they hadn't tightened the girth and the saddle and John ended up underneath the horse.

Vikki got the Aschenbrenners into the horse industry in Iowa by giving them their first horse, Blythewood's Laurel Lane. She was shown by Kate and Kristin at many of the Iowa shows. Kate went on to great success in Equitation and Show Pleasure with her equine partner Property Tax and later in the 3- Gaited division with Allison Beth. Kristin showed her CH Sweetest Victory in the 5 Gaited and Gaited Pleasure divisions and Stonewall's Supreme Look in Western. Her special love was the Hunt division where she showed Commander's Lucky Caesar and Winsdown Baku. John showed Sweetest Victory, By Jove and Collective Soul in the 5- Gaited division. His favorite was riding Collective Soul in the Heartland Drill Team. Later son Erich had great success in the Show Pleasure division with Winsdown Sweet Oil and CH Callaway's Queen of Crimson. He also showed his Dad's Collective Soul in 5 Gaited and Gaited Pleasure after the unexpected death of Winsdown Sweet Oil.

Susan spent many years as a horse show mom ; ferrying kids to lessons and shows, fixing hair and grooming horses. When the kids went off to school and no longer had time to show it was her turn. She showed Heartland lesson horse Portia and her own special By Jove in the Hunter division. When CH Callaway's Queen of Crimson became available Susan began her driving career in the Show Pleasure division with Vikki's daughter Amanda Simpson assuming many of the training details. Susan and John had begun purchasing investment horses. One of these horses was Callaway's Cumulus or Jack as he is called. When Jack was 3 he developed a serious case of plural pneumonia. He spent 6 months at the veterinary hospital at Iowa State and nearly died before an experimental drug protocol saved him. After watching him fight through this illness he became Susan's horse for life. Jack clearly had other plans for his life and has become a legend in the Country Pleasure Driving division: making more than 100 victory passes, winning 4 World's Championships, 2 World's Champion of Champion's titles, 6 National Championships and named divisional Horse of the Year 5 times by the UPHA . Amanda Simpson has trained this team throughout their career. This year Susan added Ethereal Love to her show string in the Fine Harness division.

Susan has been actively involved in the show horse industry in Iowa and nationally. She managed the Des Moines Springfest show for many years and helped develop and manage the Iowa Summer Spectacular. Susan appreciates the mentoring of Marion VandeWall as she learned these skills. John was often helping at these shows as well; setting up Center Ring, hauling hay and bedding and doing whatever needed to be done. Susan is a Board member and past president of Iowa Horse Shows

Association and current Vice president of The Iowa American Saddlebred Association. Through the American Saddlebred Association she serves on the Pleasure Horse Committee, the Charter Club Council and the Rules and Standards Committee. She is the Treasurer and Board member of the American Saddlebred Registry.

Under the guidance of Dr. Alan Raun, Susan and John began breeding a few Saddlebreds. When John retired 6 years ago they built a breeding barn and established Dreamacres LLC near Cumming. With the help of manager Dwayne Ball and their daughter Kristin they produce up to 6 foals each year.

Susan and John continue to enjoy their wonderful American Saddlebred Horses and all the friends their horses have introduced them to in Iowa and across the country.

Thank you to the Horseman's Hall of Fame for honoring us this year.