



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

October 2020

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



*Chaplain Lee Alphen*

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Harness Racing Museum and  
Hall of Fame, Goshen, NY

### Overlooked by the Hall of Fame By Chaplain Lee Alphen

The one who has done the most for harness racing is constantly overlooked for nomination to the Harness Racing Hall of Fame. I bet the members of the Harness Writers Association have never even made this suggestion.

The Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame (HRMHF) website says, "To be eligible a nominee must have been active in any phase of harness racing. Selection requires ability, integrity, sportsmanship and character." My candidate certainly qualifies.

Now, I'm not questioning the choices the committee has made over the last 60 years. They do a great job selecting the nominees. Perhaps no one ever brought this outstanding candidate to the committee's attention.

Jesus was overlooked throughout His life. His parents were turned away from every hotel in Bethlehem even though his mother was in labor.

Nathaniel hesitated when his brother, Philip, invited him to follow Jesus with him just because Jesus was from Nazareth (John 1:45-46).

The crowd demanded Pilate release a murderer rather than Jesus (Matthew 27:20-22).

My candidate is very active in every phase of harness racing. Everyone knows of him and he is always willing to help.

Reading the biographies of some of the greats on the HRMHF website is very interesting. It appears they found their way to top recognition in the sport in different ways. Stanley Dancer worked on his dad's dairy and potato farm. He started in the business as a groom before spending the nest egg of

his new wife Rachael on his first Standardbred.

Doug Ackerman was a third generation harness horseman exemplifying the multi-generational commitment of so many racing families. Billy Haughton began his driving career at the fairs in upstate New York. Delvin Miller, founder of the Meadows Racetrack, had a racing career that spanned eight decades.

Ernest Morris was a noted trial attorney who eventually became the New York state deputy attorney general. He was a lawyer for the USTA and served on the board of directors. Ernest was also president of Saratoga Raceway and an amateur driver and owner.

Jimmy Takter learned the ropes from his dad, Bo, who had a large stable in Sweden. Jimmy is now highly decorated as one of the world's leading trainers.

Jesus is the Word of God. "Everything was made through Him" (John 1:3 ERV). "The Son was there before anything was made. And all things continue because of him" (Colossians 1:17 ERV).

Thank you God for creating Standardbred horses with a talent for trotting, pacing and racing! Is there anyone better at matching the pedigrees of our stallions and mares than the one who designed their DNA?

How many drivers invite the Lord to ride with them during the race? I'm sure the smart ones do! "The Lord will protect you from every danger. [...] both now and forever!" (Psalm 121:7-8 ERV).

Listening to Jesus was so exciting, people trekked over mountains on foot to hear him. I don't believe for a minute that Roger Huston, the Voice, rose to be a great announcer without God's help.

*Overlooked continued on page 2*

**Overlooked continued from page 1**

Certainly harness racing could not find a better judge anywhere, "The Lord All-Powerful will judge fairly, and people will honor him" (Isaiah 5:16 ERV).

Selection to the Hall of Fame requires ability, integrity, sportsmanship and character.

"God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20 NIRV). Jesus died for our sins—past, present and future. Without Him there would be no need for a Hall of Fame as there would be no future.

God was not happy with His priest, Eli. His sons were scoundrels committing many sins, going against God's commands. God sent a messenger to Eli to tell him, "The Lord says, 'I will honor people who honor me, but bad things will happen to those who refuse to respect me'" (Samuel 2:30 ERV).

"Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him" (Psalm 33:1 NIV). What better way is there for harness racing to praise the Lord than by inducting Jesus into our Hall of Fame? Is there really a candidate more qualified? Where would harness racing be without Him? Where would any of us be without Him?

Inducting Jesus into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame would be an incredible statement for harness racing to make. It sure would make God smile on our sport.

*Contributors: Lyndel Adamsky, Amy Bondon, Gary Cartwright, Mark McLennan*

**Blessings from God**

*From Frank Crouch...*

I'm so happy, every day, when I think of my decision to incorporate God into every situation of my life! My life has been incredible since praying and listening for God's will for my life.

*From Dick and Loretta Hughes...*

Marissa, 14, had surgery to remove a tumor from her heart. She is home. The surgery went very well. The mass was benign. Thank all the partners for their prayers and praise God.

*From Dan Waits, RTCA...*

Izzy Trejo's surgery was very successful and a plan is underway for follow-up treatment. He's very thankful of God's faithfulness and the medical professionals who cared for him. He especially wanted me to thank each of you who provided prayer support... it means the world to him to have brothers and sisters in Christ praying on his behalf. He's back at work and looking forward to the Prayer Walk at Albuquerque Downs on September 12th.

*From Chaplain Sam Spence...*

Margie had a light case of Covid-19 and is doing great. I've never had symptoms and have tested negative four times. Sam

**My Moriah**

Charles and Lorrie Jones of Mighty Oaks Farm registered My Moriah in our Racing for Christ program. Praise God!

**Aubrey Schwartz continued from page 6**

spin some donuts on the track in a demo derby car at the fair. Without a doubt, John would love to have been there with her. It seems Aubrey is an adventurer like John.

Though Aubrey did not grow up in church, she says in her essay, "I have wanted to know who God is and why He is great. When I was younger, my friends always talked about Sunday school and seeing all their families at church. [...] A few of my friends encouraged me to come to youth group at their church. This is one of the most beneficial things I ever did. I began to learn about God and His word while surrounded by my friends. [...] When I reached high school, the athletic teams I was on always attended Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). This group has been a great source of strength for me in tough times. We fellowshiped together and built friendships

that will never waiver. I cannot be more thankful to this group."

Always passionate about community involvement and helping those who are struggling, Aubrey has been involved in fundraisers and community service events. Her annual birthday projects involve collecting items and taking them to Ronald McDonald House.

She says that throughout her life she has focused on hard work, dedication and kindness. She says, "If you are going to be active in something, I believe you should be dedicated to it completely and wholeheartedly. [...] If one can be kind, work hard, and be dedicated to what they are doing, good results will come."

"My faith, accomplishments, and achievements have shaped my character tremendously. I have been blessed to be surrounded by amazing people who have allowed me to achieve great things."



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[To Donate Now—Click here](#)

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### Gifts for Family and Friends

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)   
Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below

#### Books

- Daily Oats* by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence
- Downloading God* by Jack Levine
- Live A Life That Matters for God* by Jack Levine
- My Addict Your Addict* by Jack Levine
- Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God* by Jack Levine
- Don't Blow It With God* by Jack Levine
- Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care* by ER Gager and Bob "Dusty Rhodes"
- Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines* by Edmund R Gager



*Rambling Willie Remembers*

These lovely 5 x 7 Rambling Willie cards are packaged in sets of 10 cards. They are blank inside.

### Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

#### Horseshoe Nail Product Descriptions

**Key Ring:** Horseshoe nails are bent into a cross and tied together with colored wire. Key ring is attached with rawhide.

**Necklace:** Key ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with colored wire.

[Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form—Orders can also be placed at \[www.chha.net/products\]\(http://www.chha.net/products\)](#)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with \$20 each + \$4 shipping to:

**Roger Huston · 2249 Grey Oaks · Grove City, OH 43123**

Necklace Qty: Red \_\_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_\_

Keyring Qty: Red \_\_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_\_

*Other colors are available upon request.*



## Obituaries continued from page 5

**Vincent Aurigemma**, 72, of Silver Springs, MD, died Aug 8. Vincent started his harness racing career at Roosevelt Raceway in 1968. During the 1980s, he won multiple training titles at both Roosevelt and Yonkers Raceways.

**Beatrice "Bea" Farber**, 79, died Aug 11. Bea was a member of the harness racing Hall of Fames in Michigan, Illinois and Florida. Her exploits were so extraordinary that in 1980 in conjunction with the U.S. Trotting Association, a short film was made about her titled *Queen Bea*. In the book, *Girls Can Be Anything They Want To Be*, an entire chapter was devoted to "Queen Bea." Her 1,801 wins is the most ever by a female driver.



**Susan Maloney Fennelly**, 63, of Hampton Bays, died August 7. Sue worked in the family insurance business. Her brother, Tom Maloney, also of Hampton Bays, currently owns 20 Standardbreds including a recently foaled colt, A Boy Named Susan, named after his sister.



**Frank Edward Ford**, 93, of Ronceverte, WV, died Aug 21. After college, Frank spent 30 years installing telecommunication equipment and telephone service for AT&T subsidiary, C&P Telephone. He was the longest serving parishioner of St Catherine of Siena Catholic Church. Frank was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. Frank was the father of Mark Ford, SBOANJ President.



**H. Barry Hewson**, 76, died August 21. Barry earned his trainer's and driver's licenses. Later he accepted a position as a Racing Office Clerk at Greenwood Raceway then followed the Ontario Jockey Club's "Golden Horseshoe" circuit. Barry operated two profitable car repair shops. In 1993, Barry was appointed Director of Racing for both Mohawk Raceway and Woodbine Raceway.



**Phillip Martin**, 80, of St Peter, IL, died Aug 17, 2020. Phillip spent most of his life racing horses and playing cards. He loved horse racing and spending time with family and friends. His sons, David and Gary, are both involved in harness racing. In fact, Phillip, David and Gary all won a Kentucky Sire Stake as drivers.



**Arnold C. Shaw**, 86, of Carlisle, PA, died Aug 10. A native of Caribou, ME and a US Army veteran, Arnold was primarily known in harness racing for his more than 20 years working as public relations manager for the Hempt Farms of Hall of Famer Max C Hempt. Arnold was a tireless innovator and promoter who made the Hempt horses well-known and attractive to yearling buyers at the annual sale in Harrisburg, where his gregarious presence brightened many a conversation. He also owned several horses over the years.

**Clark Shipley**, 61, died Aug 22. Clark was a former Standardbred trainer and driver. In the early 1990s, he went to work for John Madden Sales, a giant in the show horse world.



**Sadie "Sally" Sorentino**, 85, of Yonkers, NY and Freehold, NJ, died Aug 29. Sally's greatest joy was being a mother and grandmother. This was reflected through her faith and unconditional love for her family. She and her late husband, Michael, owned and bred Standardbreds. Their son, Michael, Jr continues to own, train and drive harness horses and is also an associate judge.



**Theresa Simon**, 80, of Amherstburg, Ontario, died Aug 3. Her husband, Les Lazlo, trained horses in Essex County for many years.



**Randall Burns Stafford**, 51, of Felton, DE, died Aug 22. He could build anything he put his mind to and was a reliable man for any project. Being dependable, honest and "telling it like it is" were some of his greatest qualities. You could count on his quick wit and dry sense of humor to make you laugh. Randall was a Standardbred horse owner, driver and trainer. His love of horse racing continued as a hobby throughout his life. You could always find him at the track watching his brother's horses race.

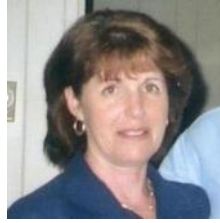


There is nothing more important than  
**Your Eternal Salvation**

Kirk Cameron

## Obituaries

**Bonnie P Battis**, 76, of Dover, NH, died Aug 12. Bonnie and her husband, Paul, operated very successful stable racing at tracks all along the Eastern United States. They had one of the leading stables in New England.



Bonnie really enjoyed spending winter months training in Pinehurst, North Carolina. Bonnie spent many years caring for residents at Riverside Rest Home in Dover, New Hampshire. Bonnie was a CHHA member and enjoyed our Bible Studies at Scarborough Downs.

**Obituaries continued on page 4**

**Sources for Obituary information include:**

www.harnessracing.com, www.ustrotting.com and  
www.standardbredcanada.ca



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*  
Memorials posted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Bonnie Battis** by: Ed and Sandra Battis, Chris Coyle, George, Genevieve and Dale Hickman, Joe and Jane Plante  
In memory of **Gibby Betts** by: Pastor Joe DiDonato  
In memory of **Paul Gately** by: Gary McCandless  
In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins  
In memory of **Donna Ingram** by: Vivian Farrington and Joe and Karen Ewing  
In memory of **Paul Pollara, Sr** and **Lacey** by: Paul Pollara, Jr  
In memory of **Theresa Simon** by: Jo-Dee Brown  
In memory of **Walter Warrington** by: Denise Riley  
In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

## Prayer Corner

**Please pray for all the people on our Prayer List who are battling cancer, especially:**

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Cohen, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Dorothy Geer, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Layla Hundertpfund, Jeff Hurst, Donna Ingram, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Harold Kelly, Bob Kinsey, Jim Kolnick, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Tommy Long, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Mrs Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Julie Schwartz, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Jack Taylor, Betty Ann Thomas, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward, Sr, Roland Wardel, Kate Williams, John Wing, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Allan Wright, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

**These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:**

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Charlie Brigham, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Vivian Farrington, Jim Ferguson, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara

and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Bob Jones, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Trudy Hite, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, Don James, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Barbara Kinsey, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Cheryl Mauran, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Louise Pelletier, Donna Phillips, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr, Alice Williams, Anne Winters.

**Please try to keep me updated about the people on our prayer list.**

**Please pray for those serving in the military, especially:**

John Beauregard, Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Please pray for an end to Covid-19 and for all affected.

Let's pray too for an end to all the out-of-control violence.

Rick Beinhauer is recovering from a stroke.

Randy Hawkins was badly burned.

Kathy Klark is recovering from hand surgery.

Marcello, 92, had surgery for a broken femur. In the process, they found masses on his heart and bladder.

Meagan McKee is undergoing radiation and chemo for two tumors on her spinal cord.

Carol Parker is undergoing cancer treatments.

Art Plant has pneumonia and stomach problems.

Ray Romanetti is having severe breathing problems.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Information at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

Please indicate  
Address corrections

## CHHA 2020 Scholars

The CHHA Scholarship Committee met on August 3, 2020 to consider the 11 terrific applications received this year. Three were outstanding: Aubrey Schwartz, Sydney Trotto and Meadow Twaddle. We will tell you about Sydney and Meadow in future newsletters.



**Aubrey Schwartz**, our John and Janet Klark Scholarship recipient, plans to study Agriculture and Education, and minor in Business Administration at Wilmington College.

Aubrey is the 2020 Fayette County Fair Queen. She enjoyed a great week at the fair being a role model for the younger kids. She really likes helping them especially with showmanship practice.



Aubrey has been around harness racing her whole life helping her dad, Bret Schwartz, with his stable and, more recently as a USTA Youth delegate contributing to Youth Beats magazine and attending events to promote harness racing in Ohio and beyond. Her grandfather, Dr Bob Schwartz, is a veterinarian at Midland Acres.

Without a doubt, John and Janet Klark would approve of Aubrey as the recipient of a scholarship in their memory. John and Aubrey are kindred spirits. John liked to fly airplanes and helicopters. Rumor has it Aubrey had a chance to

**Aubrey Continued on page 2**

## The Rambling Willie Painting By Gloria Sääf Bilotta

Back in the 1980's, I was a western artist specializing in depicting horses of all breeds and disciplines. We lived in a "horse town" outside of Los Angeles, CA, which boasted more horses

than people. Our own saddle horses were Standardbreds bought at racetrack auctions. We played with them along with a partner who had raced their own Standardbreds.

When I became acquainted with Weldon Stockwell, I offered to donate a painting as a fund-raiser toward his efforts to spread the word of Jesus Christ at harness tracks he visited. He accepted immediately and asked if I would like to paint Rambling Willie. WOW! I said YES! Weldon arranged to have slides taken of him at the Kentucky Horse Park where Willie was retired.

When Joe and I flew back to Ohio on a business trip, we brought the completed painting and showed it to Weldon. Together we decided to put it into print hoping the sales of the prints and note cards would help with his expenses as he traveled to tracks on the eastern seaboard. Weldon knew many harness racing people who supported his ministry through purchases.

Little did we know how well it would work. CHHA thrived through His grace! Weldon set up displays at tracks and was a great "sales rep" for Christ with the painting as a magnet. To this day, sales continue to help **CHHA Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!** Thank you Lord for Your blessings!

*A little about me, just a "tool" in the Lord's handy-work: I am now 82 years old. I don't paint any more (my hand shakes), but I still think of myself as an artist. My husband (of 65 years), Joe, and I are so blessed. We live on five beautiful acres in the California foothills, close to Sacramento.*

