2012 Hall Of Fame Inductee : Joseph R. W. Hoskins

Joe Hoskins and his wife Isabelle raised four children, Joanne, Bonnie, David and Christopher. Today the Hoskins clan has grown to add 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Even though most of his grandchildren never had the opportunity to know their grandfather, they have all grown up hearing the stories of his passion and dedication to his family and the Quarter Horse industry. It is from these stories that his Granddaughters took it upon themselves to nominate him for this award.

Joe's involvement in horses was not of his own choosing. Isabelle was the catalyst for the entire family going in this direction. Although she probably made him think it was his idea. The families first horse was an Arabian called Red Desert Wind. Soon Joe and Isabelle met Jean and Dale Purdy whom they purchased their very first registered Quarter Horse from. Around this time they started to dabble in the show ring as many people did including life long friends Ron and Linda Durham.

Joe owned and operated a very successful high end appliance retail store "Falkner Electric" in Toronto, Ontario from 1977 to 1987. His business took him all over the world from Italy to Japan. But there was no were like home. Joe cherished his children and the horses allowed him to stay in touch and involved in his kids lives.

Its at this point that Joe and Isabelle moved the family to the farm on the 2nd line in Campbelleville, Ontario, were they bred, raised and showed Quarter Horses from 1970 -1993. From this farm they showed notable horses such as AQHA Superior Western Pleasure Stallion Lakeview Popular, Superior Youth Horse Touch O Class and Head Waggon in the OQHA and WHA show circuits'. The 1977 and 1978 Gold Coast Circuit in Florida were among their more treasured memories those days with friends such as Gord Wadds & Mike Leppard.

Although Joe was not one to lead or ride a horse in the show pen, Joe loved to attend the OQHA shows and made many wonderful life long friends including close friend and fellow Hall Of Fame inductee Harold Mather. Where ever Joe was fun was sure to follow. He would often be seen making the rounds from trailer to trailer with cohorts such as Ralph Pearson or Ray Storey. Isabell never new where he was so she just listen for lots of laughing and Joe was sure to be in the middle of it!

In those days there was only the Ontario QH Ass Shows and members had to travel from one end of the province to the other end to be in the running for year end awards. Joe and Harold Mather first came up with the idea of dividing Ontario into areas in the late 70's. The idea was to enable Ontario QH enthusiasts to be able to go for a high point award with out breaking the bank to do so. They drew Ontario into 6 areas and presented their idea. By 1980 Area 1,2,3,4,5,6 had been born.

When Area 3 Quarter Horse Ass. took its first breaths in 1980 Joe became its founding member and very first President. HE did several terms as President. A successful salesmen Joe could just about sell ice cubes to Eskimos. A leader at heart, with an

genius talent to organize and bring people together. These skills and an incredible board of directors in those early years are what enabled him to guide the club, building a solid foundation for it to grow on. Joe worked his magic and attained large and very substantial sponsors for the club. He was instrumental in organizing food booths, spring dances, 50/50 draws, a breeders futurity and more. No one was safe from the long reach of Joe Hoskins! He would roped in his entire family, extended family, friends and any innocent bystander to be by his side and help him run many of these fund raisers. Hilton Howe was a regular at the booth and when Diane couldn't find him she new Joe had snatched him up to flip burgers. Joe was extremely passionate about the new club, he was completely dedicated and worked tirelessly to promote Area 3 and give it life. Basically those small beginnings gave it the roots to become what it is today!

Joe's support of the Quarter Horse industry was not just for Area 3 but he was also a big supporter of OQHA and Quarterama. He was instrumental in bringing in the large sponsors like Panasonic and Wiesers. Till the day he passed he never missed a Quarterama or a Western World! He served on many OQHA and Area 3 boards through out the years. The last year Joe served was as the 2nd Vice President on the OQHA board for 85/86.

In November 1987 Joe was diagnosed with Lunge Cancer. At the age of 58 Joe Hoskins died on April16th 1988. His Children and Grandchildren are still carrying the tradition of showing Quarter Horses today. He would have been very proud of them and very humble for this honour OQHA is giving him tonight.