

Remembering The Horsewoman DIANNA RANNELLS

by Bob Funkhouser



Dianna will long be known for her thrilling performances with the walk-trot mare Elle.



She became well known with her top performances aboard the five-gaited stallion Anacacho Dancer.



Socayette was one of Dianna's early stars.

A native of Butler, PA, Dianna Rannells passed away January 30th following an extended illness. The American Saddlebred and Morgan communities lost an extremely talented horsewoman and good friend to many. Her path to Kentucky started with the noted horseman Charlie Hatcher.

In the early '70s she would purchase the well-known gaited stallion CH Anacacho Dancer. She owned and showed him for 10 years, garnering many top titles before selling him to Flying V Farm to stand at stud.

Throughout her career she worked for and with many top horsemen and women, including Bridget Parker, George Knight, Randy Cates, Bob Hughes, and Diane Conrady. She also held a few well-known private jobs such as Don Spear and John Scheidt's Stonecroft and Dr. Gene Scott's Silver Oaks Ranch.

"She was a talented horsewoman and she could really instruct a person," stated Randy Cates. "She also loved to live life large."

Some of Rannells' winning performers were stars like Elle, the 1999 Lexington Junior League Three-Gaited Grand Champion and over 2 winner as well as the Three-Gaited Over 15.2 Reserve World's Champion. She will also be remembered for Socayette, Another Man's Treasure, Bayou Belle, I Am The Dream (BHF), Catch N Tell, CH The Last Straw, Captivate, Tres Chic, Stonecroft Rumor Has It, Stonecroft Sincerely, Stonecroft Trilogy, Stonecroft Superstition, Stonecroft Intuition, Stonecroft Neoclassic, CH



Stonecroft Sincerely was her 2008 Two-Year-Old Fine Harness World's Champion for Stonecroft.



In 2008, Dianna rode Spiceolife Present Tense GCH to the Morgan Park Saddle World Championship and Grand National Saddle Stallion title. She won the roses for Diane Conrady and Arboria Morgans.

Stonecroft I'm Radiant, CH Nurse Good body, Indigo Joe, That's Chicago, Attaché's Easter Present, and the great Spiceolife Present Tense GCH.

"She was so very talented," said Kim Skipton. "Eccentric, animal loving and scattered, but Dianna totally focused when it came to horses."

Bob Hughes was one of Rannells' close friends. She used to help him some and became very close. "Dianna was an amazing person," said Hughes. "So smart. She rode her very last horse (Champagne Treat) with me. I miss her a lot."



Stonecroft Neoclassic won the World Champion Two-Year-Old Park Harness and World Champion Futurity Two-Year-Old Park Harness titles in 2005.



The same year she won two world titles with Stonecroft Neoclassic, Diana guided Stonecroft Trilogy to the Reserve World Champion Park Saddle honors.