



Lance Wetmore is loved and missed by all who knew him. He was well known for his love of Morgans and his family.



Martha Wetmore joined John Bennett in the carriage during the ceremony honoring the memory of Lance Wetmore.

CONNECTICUT MORGAN REMEMBERS LANCE WETMORE

Connecticut Morgan remembered former CHMA president Lance Wetmore on Friday, June 4.

From the time Lance was a young man, he was always involved with horses. Not being from a horse family, Lance taught himself how to ride and, with the help of Johnny Kriz, he found his way into the horse world. He started showing Parade horses, Roadster horses and ponies, and Palominos. In 1957, he met his wife, Martha Taylor; they married in 1961. In the early years that followed, Lance worked for Johnson and Johnson, then Honeywell, before joining ROMAC and Associates. He would eventually start his own business, Elwood and Associates.

It wasn't until their three girls were born, Jennifer, Melissa, and Shauna, that the Morgan Horse became their love. In 1975, they acquired Ledgelans Fire Chief, the first Morgan horse the family would train and show. Although Melissa claimed Chief as her own, it was with her father's help that they were able to get him harnessed and saddle broke. He took the farm named Bittersweet to all the Morgan shows. Together, they showed in everything a Morgan could do, which was a lot. From Equitation to Pleasure Saddle, Pleasure Harness to Roadster Under Saddle, they won at NEMHS. Chief even pulled the stone bolt and ran the half mile race back when it was popular at NEMHS.

As the years came and went, more and more Morgans became part of the Bittersweet Farm Family, and the farm was incorporated as BSF Inc. in 1995. Lance was now fully involved with training and showing. The farm had a large Summer Riding Program. Lance loved working with young students and teaching beginners how to ride. As the number of Morgan Horses on the farm grew, BSF started their own Breeding Program with the Beta B' prefix. Lance would become president of the Connecticut Morgan Horse Association and the Connecticut Horse Association.

Students from the Sinner Riding Program continued with their lessons and soon became the foundation for the Bittersweet Show Program. Parents loved the

individual attention their children received, and soon bought a Morgan Horse to join the show world. It was important to Lance to show everyone how versatile the Morgan breed was. The Morgan could be your trail horse, carriage horse, jumper, show horse, dressage partner, or the backyard horse you always wanted.

Over the years, many of these students went on to show at the Morgan Grand National in Oklahoma, winning the AMHA Hunter on the Flat as well as Hunter Over Fences and all levels of Hunt Seat Equitation, Dressage Championships, and Carriage Championships. One rider won the Youth Championship and went on to show in Australia. Through all the shows, Lance's daughters worked alongside him and eagerly embraced his valuable lessons. He taught them to believe in themselves and be proud of their accomplishments. Melissa and Shauna both have their own farms today and continue to show the world what a Morgan is all about, while Jennifer enjoyed success with her restaurant, Slainte.

Some people will remember the nights at The Falls Creek Morgan Show when Lance and John Bennett would dance on the tack boxes – always a crowd pleaser. Others will remember the many times Lance led the Memorial Day Parade, riding one of his beautiful Morgans adorned in silver while carrying the American Flag.

In later years, Lance continued to show in the Carriage division, stepping out of the Morgan world to show Friesians and other breeds. He was well known for his carriage partners, Morgans Wintergreen Sultana, UVM Allegro, Beta B' Protocol, Beta B' Provocative, and Elegant Reflection, as well as his Friesian Picasso.

Lance taught and promoted the Morgan Horse in a quiet way by teaching, showing, and sharing the love, talent, and respect he had for the breed. Lance enjoyed talking to people and sharing his stories of years of riding and meeting people from all over the world. Lance would tell of his Parade years and how Art Perry flew to Bittersweet to meet with him. Art admired Lance's old but interesting silver saddle, adorned with 14-karat gold Indian heads on the horn and bridle. It was very special to both horsemen and had a lot of history behind it.

Lance is loved and missed by all who knew him, but his talent with horses will be carried on by his children, who will continue showing horses the way Lance taught them, with love, respect, kindness, and a gentle touch.