

Harold was always happiest when he was with his daughter Kylee and his wife of 38 years, Penny.

# 1947-2021 HAROLD COCHRAN

BY CHRISTY HOWARD WOMACK

Harold Cochran passed away August 16, 2021 surrounded by his wife Penny and daughter Kylee Cochran David and her husband Mike. A celebration of his life was held in his longtime home town of West Middlesex, Pennsylvania on September 11, which was attended by many of his friends from the horse business and from throughout his life. Tim Roesink gave the eulogy and several other friends also told stories from their time with Harold.

Because of course that is what Harold loved to do – sit around with his friends and tell stories. Stories about the horse business, stories about his daughter Kylee, and stories about the good ole days.

“One of his favorite stories to tell,” said Tim Roesink, “I’m sure I heard it a dozen times, was about the New Castle Horse Show in the early 80s. He was showing his ponies and the important part of the story was meeting Penny. It’s almost like Harold believed that’s when his life really began.”

Penny Price, her brother Phil, and their parents Addie and Owen ran the uber successful Morgan horse farm Carousel Stables for many years and once Harold met Penny, he often came to stay at the farm, just to be near her.

“He first sent us a pony to train at Carousel,” Penny remembers. “Then he came as often as he could

and he would stay in the dormitory in my parent’s basement where there were usually five to ten different kids staying to ride their horses.

“A year later, Judy Whitney pulled me aside at the Morgan Gold Cup horse show and told me that I’d better hold on to him – that he was a keeper.”

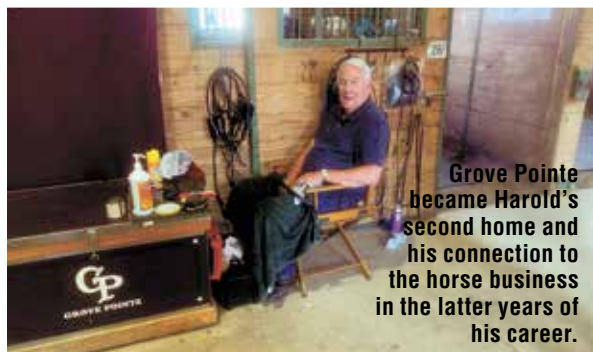
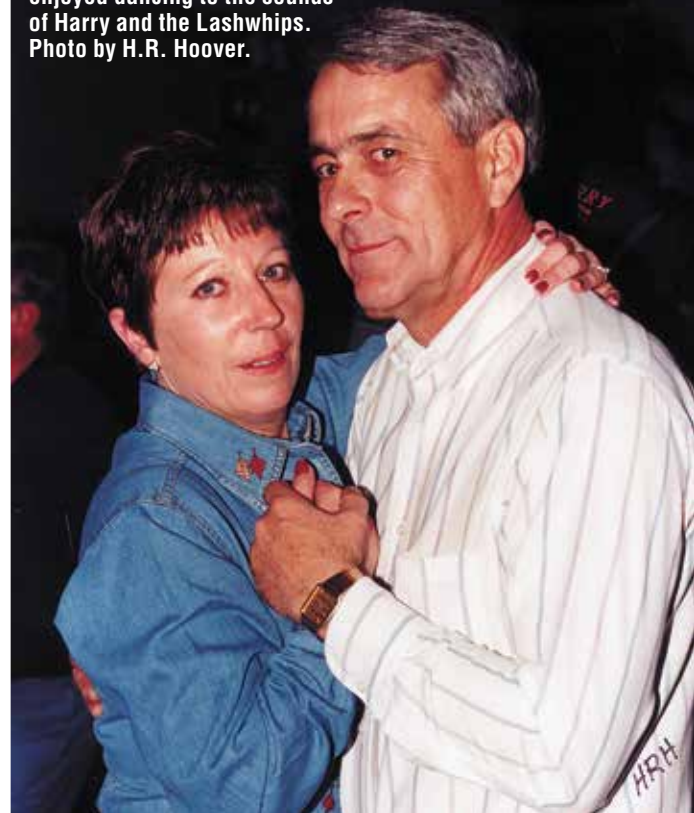
After they married, Harold and Penny started the Cochran Morgan Auction, one of the most successful Morgan horse sales of all time. “The sale was sort of my idea,” said Penny. “I told Harold I thought the Morgan breed needed an outlet like a Tattersalls-type sale and that’s what we set out to strive for. It was quite successful.”

Together they traveled the horse show circuit, supporting that sale for over twenty years.

Harold and Penny also enjoyed supporting their daughter Kylee’s show ring career. They bought two different horses for Kylee through the Cochran sale that went on to be World Champions. First they purchased HVK Main Look and Penny trained him and they took him to Oklahoma.

“Harold was driving for Creech then and he missed her qualifier, but he came in the middle of the night the night before she showed. We got him up to watch the championship, but we weren’t expecting much,” Penny said.

Back in the days of the Cochran Morgan Auction, the Cochrans enjoyed dancing to the sounds of Harry and the Lashwhips. Photo by H.R. Hoover.



Grove Pointe became Harold’s second home and his connection to the horse business in the latter years of his career.





Even Kylee got in on the professional action at the Cochran Morgan Auction.



Dad was pleased as punch with Kylee's first World Championship title in 2000.



Harold was especially fond of Jose Torrez, whom he worked with at Grove Pointe.



You could see the bond between father and daughter grow even deeper through the years. Photo by H.R. Hoover.



Kylee won the World Championship with HVK Main Look in 2000 in the 13 and Under Classic Pleasure Saddle Class. "Harold was pleased as punch," said Penny.

"I remember going out to the fairgrounds and going to find his truck to wake him up," said Kylee. "We didn't think we had a chance because I'd gotten sixth in the qualifier. When they called out my number and I won, he was the proudest dad. He wouldn't have missed it for the world."

In 2003, Harold and Penny again bought a horse through the sale – FZM Encore. Penny started showing him until Oklahoma but then turned over the reins to Kylee where she earned a reserve World Champion title. The following year, they sent the horse to Jim Taylor who trained FZM Encore and Kylee to the Grand National and World Champion titles in the Junior Exhibitor Park Harness division.

Kylee's was the light in Harold's eye. "Dad meant the world to me," Kylee said. "It was an honor to have him as my father. He taught me so many great things – not only in life, but in the horse business as well.

"When my husband went to my dad to ask for his permission to marry me, dad actually thought it would have happened the year before. Dad was so proud of Mike. It was hard for him to lose his baby, but he knew I was marrying a great man who would take care of me.

"He was tough. He wanted me to be the best person I could be – to succeed in everything I tried to

do. He wanted me to have a better life, to better myself in this world. He succeeded in that. I will miss everything about him!"

As crusty as he tried to make his reputation seem, Harold was really a softie – particularly when it came to his wife and daughter.

Good friend Lynn Peeples explains. "Harold was a lot softer person than he let on. He always took a personal interest in people's lives – he always asked about my mother and my daughter when we were talking. People didn't always see that side of him. Underneath that rough growly exterior, he really wasn't tough – he was a big softie."

"He was a good friend of mine since the mid 1980s," said Jim Taylor. "He was a character that always had good sense of friendship and loved the camaraderie. He was faithful to a fault. But he was an ornery son of a XXXXX. He had that sense of humor that you needed to get to know him before you could understand it," laughed Taylor.

He was a good friend to many in the horse business. And once they discontinued the Cochran sale, he began working for Creech Brothers Transportation hauling horses for many different trainers and different breeds. This allowed him to be around the horse business he loved, doing something that was important to him. And he took his responsibility for safe transport of the horses VERY seriously.

Harold was very particular about presentation. His jeans were always freshly creased, he always had on a freshly starched shirt, and his truck would always be immaculate.

Longtime friend Peter Palmer said, "We were friends a long time. He hauled my horses for twenty years and he did a wonderful service for me the whole time he took care of me. I can't say enough good about him. I was close to the Price family – Penny, Phil, and their parents my whole life – we grew up together, but then Harold and I became friends and he was always very attentive to what he did for me. We had a lot of fun over the years. He was one of the good guys and I'm going to miss him."

Tim Roesink elaborated, "when he retired from Creech was when Harold went from a friend to more like family. He would drive our rigs to horse shows and clean tack. If we lost him, we could find him over at Lynn's (Peeples) stalls telling stories.

"I will say through those years Harold was with us at Grove Pointe, I began to see a side of Harold honestly I didn't think existed. I learned that as much as Harold loved the horse business, what he really loved was the people and the friends he had because of the horse business. He was a fiercely proud husband and father, and was a genuine compassionate person. He built a good life with many friends and his loving family. He left his own special mark on the horse industry. Rest well, my friend. We love and miss you!"