

# WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP HORSE SHOW HALL OF FAME

## Gib Marcucci

*Editor's Note: Announcer Peter Fenton read the following speech Saturday Aug. 27, 2016 at the World's Championship Horse Show.*



*Son-in-law and daughter Kevin and Cindy Ireland, Ruth McKenzie, show manager Scarlett Mattson, granddaughter Dr. Tabitha Ireland Galloway and her husband Jacob Galloway joined Hackney Pony trainer Gib Marcucci Saturday night for his induction ceremony. (Photo by Howard Schatzberg)*

There are few people in our industry who are known by just one name; the 2016 inductee into the World's Championship Horse Show Hall of Fame is one of those people.

Gib has been around horses and ponies all of his life. Gib and his father operated a farm on a shoestring budget and while at the show Gib would follow other trainers around asking questions and soaking up the answers.

Gib dated just one young lady and married her in 1955. Gib and Betty raised two daughters and made their home in Monmouth, Iowa. According to Gib you could put all of the people from Monmouth, Iowa in half our show ring. After military service and college, Gib opened Gib Marcucci Stables in 1960. Gib is often seen driving the ponies to the mailbox to get the mail. They operated the public stables for 52 years and Gib retired in 2012. Betty was a homemaker and raised their family. She enjoyed her children, grandchildren, family, and her dogs. Betty passed away in 2009.

Gib had World's Champions in every Hackney division at the World's Championship Horse Show. Cobtail champions include Apollo Sand, Heartland Triumphant King, Terry Jean's Souvenir, Mr. Hawkeye, Fashionation, Blue Rain, Dutch Director, Royal Canadian, Atta Boy, Nabucco and Lord Ovation.

In the harness pony division the great Revelation, Impress My Daddy, Dun-Haven Desiree, King's Squire, El Toro, Sambucco, Flamethrower, Second Souvenir, Pride's Starmaster and Man on the Town were some of his champions.

Roaster pony champions include Hazard County, Holly Hocks, Yankee Doodle Dandy, Triumphant, Heartland Memory, Yeah Boy and My Party Manners.

The ponies were a family affair at Gib Marcucci Stables. His daughters Cindy and Lorrie became accomplished drivers and granddaughter Tabitha continued the tradition. Gib's customers were also family; Glenn Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Alan R.

Robson, Jane Mueller, Mary Campbell, Muffy Ernster, Dr. and Mrs. R.E. Vermillion and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wheeler are just a few of the customers that called Gib Marcucci Stables home.

Gib has been honored many times in his career. He was the first recipient of the AHHS Bill G. Robinson National Trainer Award in 2001. In 2007 he received the UPHA Tom Moore Professional Horseman Hall of Fame Award and in 2012 was recognized by the United States Equestrian Federation with the Pegasus Award. He is proud to be the first trainer that trains Hackney ponies exclusively inducted into the World's Championship Horse Show Hall of Fame.

He has always given back to this industry as a founding member of the United Professional Horseman's Association and a well-respected judge. He has judged the World's Championship Horse Show four times and has traveled to numerous countries sharing his knowledge and love of the ponies.

For Gib, the old ways are the best ways and he is not going to change. He is stubborn, has an amazing work ethic and a strong sense of loyalty. His granddaughter Tabitha Ireland wrote a poem about her "Grampy" when she was 10 years old- here is a verse that is still relevant today:

He whom hath a large heart,  
Knows what really matters.  
Gives and takes with simple words  
Why call a plate a platter?

In 2012 after unanimously winning the Hackney Pony World's Grand Championship with Nabucco, for owner Mary Campbell, announcer Peter Fenton asked Gib what he would like his legacy to be. Simply put he "Wants to be remembered as a nice guy, someone willing to help a fellow horseman."