

The Passing of A Legend



1997 WORLD GRAND CHAMPION - SENIOR MODEL CLASS
Zane's Knight Rider S.
Owned by George & Jo Ann Becker, Black, MO

Zane's Knight Rider S. was born on April 28, 1982 on Larry and Barbara Schenewerk's Farm in California, Missouri. Months before, Larry had been at a horse sale in Lebanon, Missouri, talking to Tom Jennings. Tom had told Larry that he had a mare that Larry should come to see. But when Larry got to Tom's farm, he ended up buying a different mare. Her name was Zane's Bay Lady, and she had been bred to the stallion named Secrets Midnight. On April 28, Zane's Bay Lady had a stud colt. Larry's kids wanted to name him Knight Rider after the television series. This was the start of Zane's Knight Rider S.

He was known as the gentle giant! Knight Rider was extremely gentle; everyone in the family rode him. The kids would shoot basketballs off of him and set off fireworks next to him. You would never have known he was a stallion. Larry didn't know if Knight Rider could be shown or not because he didn't seem to have the drive that a show horse needs. But, Knight Rider proved everyone wrong. As a 2-year-old, he won the Mid-America. He was beaten by Rex's Golden Touch at the Celebration.

Knight Rider was sold to Jim and Donna Huffman from Strafford, Missouri. When Jim was showing him, Knight Rider always came out showing! When I first started hearing about Knight Rider, everyone said that he was a stallion before his time. He had lots of reach, was extremely animated and had tons of head shake. Jim and Donna advertised him as the Horse for All Reasons: Disposition, Style, Conformation, Breeding, Animation, and Performance!!!

I can honestly say that the Huffman's were right on with that description!! When George and I were at Clarence and Brenda Ziegenbein's place one evening, buying a mare, Clarence showed us Knight Rider. Clarence said he had purchased him to help Brenda with the canter, because Knight Rider had such a good show canter. Clarence said, "You should just take him home with you!!!" George and I bought him on the spot. We were so excited to have the opportunity to own such a great stallion; he was a 12-year-old then.

We have owned many stallions over the years: Jets Gay Strutter, Rex's Black Jack, Barney Fife, Barney Fife's General Ike, Party Boy C., Yankee's Mean Machine, Sensations Trademark, Sensations Black Jack, Zane's EB, Chiefs Iron Pirate, Iron Dukes Impressive Reflection, Strutters Royal Flush, Legends Shadow, Legends Top Gun, Ramblers Gold Drum, Rex's Class Act, Atlantic Pride, Yankee's James Madison, and Exclusive's Talk of The Town. I am sure I missed a few, but I have to honestly say that Knight Rider was my favorite for all the

reasons anyone loves a great horse!!!

Because of Knight Rider I had the privilege of raising Victoria's Secret, who is an outstanding show and trail mare. I could ride her in the mountains of Colorado and the next week win at Ava. One year Johnnie Miller took her to win the Championship in Model!

Knight Rider was 17 years old when Johnnie had a senior stud that he was supposed to show. The customer brought the horse in July. He had most of his mane eaten off due to running with the mares. Johnnie told the customer that he couldn't get his horse ready in time. Since Johnnie didn't have a senior horse to show, we all said, "Why don't you take Knight Rider?" As the story goes, Knight Rider won the World Grand Champion Senior Model horse that year, at 17 years old.

Knight Rider was definitely a breeding stallion! With one collection you could breed 30 mares. Just a year ago we were collecting him to ship semen to Norway. No one could believe that we could ship that far on an older stallion, but Knight Rider proved them wrong. Knight Rider helped produce over 157 registered foals in his lifetime.

I could go on and on about this great stallion and the great times we had. We have had the greatest privilege to have this special soul here at Valley Springs Fox Trotters for many years. He will be greatly missed, as he passed away on November 2, 2010, due to a stroke. He is buried on a grassy knoll here at Valley Springs Fox Trotters, where he can oversee his domain and whisper to me once in a while as if to say to me; "I'm still here; just feel me in the breeze." There is a saying from Will Rodgers: "There is nothing better for the inside of a man than the outside of a horse!" We will truly miss this outstanding stallion and friend; he was a big part of our family!!!!

JoAnn Becker
Valley Springs Fox Trotters



photo by: Dawn Young