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The EVENER



Twenty-five Years of the Iowa Draft Horse and Mule Association

By DELORIS A. GOOD

No single person was more instrumental in founding the Iowa Draft Horse and Mule Breeder's Association Incorporated than Mr. Dick Sparrow of Zeiring, Iowa. It was the summer of 1957 when he called together some Iowa State Fair exhibitors for a picnic. The gathering was held at Zeiring at the farm of Ross Sparrow and son, with approximately 56 people present. The purpose of the meeting was to see what could be done about getting draft horses back into the Iowa State Fair. The show had simply dropped the draft horses from its premium book and it was a terrible shock. It was decided to try and see the Iowa State Fair Board. Dick Sparrow succeeded in getting in to do a little hitching in the night horse show, but that was all that year.

Draft horse shows were in disarray in Iowa. Of course we were out at the Iowa State Fair, and when the Cattle Congress at Waterloo changed managers he put the draft horses out too. About this time the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America decided to put up two barns at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds at Davenport, Iowa and start a show there.

The second year we met at Riverview Park at Marshalltown, Iowa. We called ourselves the Belgian Draft Horse Breeder's picnic now. We didn't care too much for meeting in the park, so we went back to Sparrow's in 1959.

Following is a review and the story of how we grew. It was on June 19, 1960, at Harry Wendel's at Atkins, Iowa, that we decided to organize. We decided to change our name to the Iowa Draft Horse Breeder's Association and Picnic. We wanted to include Iowa and fringe states, and all draft breeds. The annual meeting

date was set for the first Sunday following Father's Day. We felt that we preferred meeting out on the farms where we could get to see some horses. It was agreed that membership would be \$1.00, and we took in 36 members. The secretary was instructed to have cards printed requesting memberships and \$1.00 donations toward the advertising of the National Belgian Horse Show getting started at the Mississippi Valley Fair at Davenport, Iowa. We decided to back up this new show, and so the "Iowa Class" for animals two years of age, bred and owned in Iowa, was created. The first officers elected were Harry Wendel, president; Eldred Pierce, vice-president; and Lester Good, secretary-treasurer. We felt that we wanted to go back to Sparrow's the next year because it would be centrally located. It became a custom to serve ice cream.

The fourth picnic was held at Sparrow's on June 11, 1961 with the largest crowd so far. Although more than 100 cards were sent out, we took in only 31 members. We voted to set our date permanently for the Sunday before Father's Day. We started to pass the hat for the Iowa Class and to buy some trophies. Draft horses were slowing coming back to the Iowa State Fair and we voted to donate a trophy for the best Clydesdale mare. Some of our first entertainment was Todd West and his fancy rope tricks. Of course we had ice cream.

There was a joke that the president shall host the picnic. The fifth picnic was held at Harry Wendel's on June 10, 1962. We learned that we should elect a director to the Tri-State Sale, which would become a custom, and Mr. Roy Curtis was elected. The dues were raised to \$2.00 and we took in 33 members. For the first time we had some memorials. Up at Water-

loo they had changed managers and we received a letter from the new manager saying that they were putting in draft horses at the Cattle Congress—hooray! We decided to back them up and furnish some trophies and the hat was passed. Certain individuals were starting to donate some trophies also.

We returned to Sparrow's in June 1963 for the sixth picnic. We laid down some rules concerning memorials. We had 39 members. We were hearing some more from Maury Telleen concerning the Cattle Congress at Waterloo. The customary hat was passed for trophies and others were donating some too. We started advertising a little in the saddle horse paper also.

Our seventh picnic was held at Arnold Hexom's on June 14, 1964. More than 200 cards were sent out and we took in 37 members. It was customary to elect a director to the Tri-State Sale and we elected Mr. Roy Curtis. We voted to keep the Iowa Class at the National Belgian Horse Show at Davenport, Iowa. The Iowa State Fair and the Cattle Congress shows were getting underway and we tried to back them up with some trophies. We were doing some advertising in some horse publications also. Maury Telleen told us that he was starting a new journal.

Approximately 160 people attended the eighth picnic, held at Ed Claussen's in June 1965. We took in 42 members. Orville Pierce and Rollin Gingerich were elected directors to the Tri-State Sale. We learned that a circus parade was being held at Milwaukee on July 4th. The Iowa State Fair was adding some classes while the Cattle Congress was adding pulling horses. A lot of small shows

continued

were starting up now. About this time we began hearing from the Iowa State Tax Collector in regard to sales tax to be collected at sales on draft horses.

Mrs. Raymond Vogler, along with the Goods, hosted the ninth picnic in 1966. We had 49 members. Mr. Kenneth Fulk appeared for the Iowa State Fair, saying that they would like for our organization to have their dynamometer. We decided to buy it from them for \$1.00. In order to do this we learned that we would need to incorporate. We received a letter from the Doran law firm saying that they doubted if draft horses would be taxed. It was suggested that we take it up with a good tax attorney. Herbert Schneckloth showed his pictures of South America.

More than 200 people and many out-of-state guests attended the 10th picnic at Sparrow's in 1967. The Articles of Incorporation were approved. Next we elected three directors: Orville Pierce, Melvin Tuttle and Ray Curtis. Dick Sparrow agreed to shed the dynamometer. Ray Curtis was re-elected a director to the Tri-State Sale. The annual dues were raised from \$2.00 to \$3.00. Entertainment was watching some teams pull on the dynamometer. Later in the year we decided to return

the dynamometer to the Iowa State Fair.

We returned to Harry Wendel's for the 11th picnic in June 1968. We had 37 members. Mr. Don Schneckloth was elected a director to the Tri-State Sale. Maury Telleen, Melvin Tuttle and Orville Pierce were elected directors. We approved lowering the breaking point for pullers at Waterloo.

The 12th picnic, in 1969, was held at Rollin Gingerich's. We had 32 members. Elected directors to the Tri-State Sale were Don Schneckloth, Harold McMains and Rollin Gingerich. We decided to drop the Articles of Incorporation. We learned that the Iowa State Fair Board had increased the money to \$5,000, while Don Schneckloth reported that the tax collectors were insisting that we owed them tax money. The advice of a tax attorney was that it would be best to pay the tax.

For the 13th picnic we went to Doc O'Brien's on June 14, 1979. We had 34 members. Larry Johnson showed his pictures of the horseman's tour of the British Isles.

Jay Mitchells held the 14th picnic, in June 1971. We had 44 members then. Several fair officials were represented. There were a lot of little

fairs interested. Dr. Brinkman spoke on antibiotics. Two classes of mares were judged.

Approximately 130 people attended the 15th picnic, at Don Schneckloth's in 1972. Re-elected officers to the Tri-State Sale were Harold McMains, Don Schneckloth and Rollin Gingerich. We had 44 members. It was voted to change the meeting date from the second Sunday to the first Sunday in June because several members were auctioneers and it conflicted with their state meeting. Several fair officials were introduced and we heard about a lot of little fairs. A class of geldings was brought out. Doc O'Brien brought the homemade ice cream.

A specially-called meeting was held at the Tri-State Sale in Cedar Rapids in March 1973 to fill the post of secretary-treasurer, due to the death of Lester R. Good. Deloris Good was appointing acting secretary-treasurer until the June meeting.

Approximately 135 people attended that 16th picnic, held at Everett Steege's—in the barn, for a change, and the horses were there. Miss Deloris Good was duly elected secretary-treasurer. No memorial had been given at the time of Lester Good's death, so a travelling trophy

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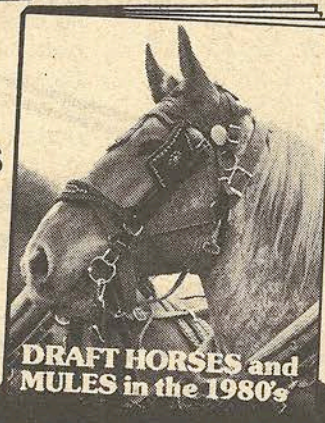
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was set up, with a smaller one to be awarded annually to the winner, for him to keep. We had an S.O.S. from the Clay County Fair. We voted to start giving trophies to a small show and decided to send it to the Clay County Fair first. A color movie of the 40-horse hitch was shown.

We went to the Iowa Living History Farm for our 17th picnic. We had 53 members now. We voted to continue the Iowa Class at the National Belgian Horse Show at Davenport, Iowa, the Lester Good travelling trophies and the usual trophies. Because of the up coming Bicentennial the Iowa State Fair asked for the liaison committee to work with them. Mr. Oliver Gillespie spoke to us about the Living History farms.

The 18th picnic was held at the Warren County Fairgrounds with the Foster Sarchetts and Telleens as hosts. A judging contest was held and WHO-TV came and made a news feature.

Approximately 200 people registered at the 19th picnic, held at Junior Vorwaldt's on June 6, 1976. We took in 153 members and we were thriving. We voted to enlarge and to change our name to the Iowa Draft Horse and Mule Breeder's Association. There was a judging contest and hitching. The first drawing was held.

Approximately 300 people attended the 20th picnic, at Fred Charbonneaux's on June 5, 1977. Jiggs Kinney was president and we had 212 members. We decided to retain the Bicentennial liaison committee. We voted to draw up and send a resolution to our legislators concerning the sales tax on horses. The queen contest was started and Miss Kim Brown was named the first queen. We had a drawing.

The 21st picnic was held at Arnold Hexom's in 1978, with 225 people registered. A trophy committee was named and it was suggested that they make up a list of judges. A resolution was approved that the Lester Good travelling trophy should go to horses bred and owned by an Iowa exhibitor. We learned that the Iowa State Fair wanted to give the dynamometer away or to scrap it, and we decided to go after it. Deloris Good reported that the sales tax resolution had passed both houses

and awaited the governor's signature. Miss Jean Huntrods was elected the queen and we voted to pay the queen \$10.00 a show and make up back pay. The drawing was held.

More than 300 people attended the 22nd picnic, held at Rollin Gingerich's in June 1979. We honored our president, Bill Sassman, who had died. We had 238 members now. A resolution was approved to give a trophy to any county fair or small show holding an open draft horse show getting 20 head of horses or more. We had some state corporation papers and were still trying to put the mule into our name. We voted to sell the dynamometer at the next year's Tri-State Sale. In view of the fact that we expected lots of money in the treasury from the sale of the dynamometer, it was voted to separate the secretary's job from the treasurer's. Mrs. Iva Mitchell was elected treasurer, and Miss Deloris Good remained the secretary. Miss Denise Kruger was crowned the queen. The annual drawing was held.

The 23rd picnic was held at Howard Buerchley's in 1980. It was something different. The reading of the minutes was dispensed with. The treasurer's report was curtailed but we heard that the dynamometer was sold to Wisconsin on the Tri-State Sale for \$3200. A resolution making changes to the by-laws was approved. Miss Diane Thoms was elected queen. Mrs. Pauline Griffith became the secretary. Mrs. Iva Mitchell was elected treasurer. Four regional directors were elected: N.E., Jim Meyer; N.W., Jim Quinlan; S.W., Foster Sarchett; and S.E., Rollin Gingerich. The annual drawing was held. Dale McMain demonstrated how to shoe a horse.

The 24th picnic was held at Jay Mitchell's on June 7, 1981. We voted to keep the Iowa Class at the National Belgian Horse Show at Davenport. The body voted to change the name to the Iowa Draft Horse and Mule Breeder's Association, Incorporated. Deloris Good reported that \$6900 which belonged to the first Iowa Horse and Mule Association and was made by the dynamometer has fallen into the hands of the Iowa Horse Industry Council. It was suggested that we celebrate our upcoming 25th anni-


versary. Miss June Oldenburger was elected the queen. The annual drawing was abandoned.

The draft horse industry returned slowly in Iowa, and the growth of our association reflects this. Membership averaged from 31 to 53 members for several years. In 1976 membership increased to 153, climbed to 212 in 1977 and reached a high point of 238 members in 1979.

When we first organized we were in the red by \$10.87, but now we are quite rich due to the sale of the dynamometer, which had only been a nuisance to us.

About one of the most important things done was to remove the 3% sales tax on the sale of draft horses, which had far-reaching effects on many people for thousands of miles. In 1977 Mr. Roy Curtis gave the secretary a donation of \$30.00, for her to have some printing done in an effort to start getting rid of the tax. Incidentally, printing and other costs of removing the nuisance tax totaled \$243.08, a very small price indeed. It seemed an impossible task, but it was accomplished.

This year Iowans will be going home to celebrate their 25th anniversary picnic. We will be returning to Dick Sparrow's at Zearing, Iowa on Sunday, June 6, 1982. Won't you come and join us? Visitors are always welcome!



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