

Unlike many of you, Royal was not a born and bred horseman with a family history of breeding, raising and training harness horses. He developed his love of standardbred horses and skills harness racing through trial and error – right along with his family. Though the family-owned a horse or two before 1973, his real involvement began with the purchase of an 80 acre farm a mile NW of Grinnell and the move of the family there, At the age of 11 or 12, Royal was jogging one of the horses in our horse stable, Marybar Louise.

Of course, you all know how quickly the horse numbers can grow. We purchased some (impossible to attend a sale and not buy a horse, right?) and bred some so that by the time Royal was 16, we probably were training and racing 3 or 4.

The year he turned 16, we had a horse, Paceway. A Paintaway out of Rapid Adios. He jogged and trained him in an Amish high two-wheeled cart because he was so hard to hold in a regular jog cart – also, he kicked. A lot like his mom in that regard. One time he dumped Royal out of the cart and then ran, pulling the big cart, around the entire edge of the farm, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, as hard as he could run. When he arrived back at the barn, he stopped and just stood there spraddled legged, breathing hard. Pulling the cart through plowed ground had finally tired him out. We never trained him without a kicking strap and the first time Royal was to drive him in a race, I was VERY nervous about how he would perform. However, just like a kid, he ALMOST never misbehaved at the races – only at home. We did learn that it was best to jog Paceway every day, or he was prone to kick when he was hitched to jog after a layoff. Paceway won 16 races that first year Royal drive and that was the beginning of Royal's driving career.

Watching and analyzing driving skills, how races develop, and the ability of horses and drivers in races has become an all-engrossing pastime for Royal. As he says, "an obsession".

But you have all had the pleasure, also, of watching Royal grow up in our community of horsemen to the person he is today. It is not always all about the horses and racing. Royal has had time for others and causes that he feels strongly about. He has worked diligently in the best interest of harness racing, horsemen and women of Iowa. Maybe some of us might not agree with his views and decisions, but I believe, he has always acted in what he believed was best for all of us. He gives freely of his time and professional knowledge to communities and churches alike.

I'm sure you would all agree, if you have a problem with which Royal can help, if you ask, he will be there. Helping in whatever way he can.

This is our son of whom we are very proud, ROYAL.