

Ron Payton, a courageous ambassador for the Arabian horse.

There are individuals and families that make such strong positive impressions through their handling of life's challenges that they inspire the spirit and showcase the brightest side of man's behavior. Ron Payton and his family exhibit those characteristics. They are a family dedicated to the Arabian horse and showed at many of the EKAHA and GKCAHA shows. It was a family affair, grooming, prepping, and showing their own horses. A quiet reserved family that loved the Arabian horse and showed a dignity that created a positive impression for the industry. Jo Ellen, Ron's daughter, suffered a head injury from a fall and missed several seasons of showing. Through the family's support and her persistence, she returned to the show ring with the same determination as before. A few years later Ron was in a horrible automobile accident that required the amputation of his legs. I remember him coming to a show with his family helping him to enjoy the horses he so loved. I attended Ron's Memorial and asked Sue if she minded preparing a remembrance of Ron that could be shared with the local Arabian associations. Ron's daughter Jo Ellen sent me the following:

I would like to write a few words about our dad, Ron Payton. I would like to thank the Greater Kansas City Arabian Horse Association, the Eastern Kansas Arabian Horse Association, and Mike Bennett in particular, for this opportunity.

Mom (Susan) and Dad met and married in Tempe, Arizona. I have four siblings: Joy, Andrea, Ronda, and Mark. We will always remember him as the gracious, kind man that He was. He loved the Lord God and served Him wholeheartedly. He went home to be with his Saviour on June 20, 2008. My name is Jo Ellen Hayworth, and I am his youngest daughter.

Dad and Mom have loved Arabian horses since 1977 when they purchased their first two from Ray and Liz O'Connor formerly of Erie, Illinois. Years later, they sold the half-Arabian. The purebred just recently passed on at age 33. Both mares were sired by a stallion of Ray O'Connor's, Arickk. He was an Aramus son.

Although Dad did not ride, he was very involved. He saw their beauty and enjoyed them very much. He and Mom got involved in showing at local shows and learned new techniques all the time. Dad became excellent at halter showing.

From there, Dad went to Geneseo, Illinois, and purchased a colt and filly from Larry Carton. The Carton family befriended us and gave us a lot of help working with the colt (Raffles breeding) and the filly (also Raffles breeding). At this point, Larry helped Dad work with the colt. Dad began driving Tondelaya Tachiah. The pair did quite well.

We went back to Erie, Illinois, for our final purchase from Ray O'Connor. This was a very tall purebred Aramus mare RR Chesalon. Dad became involved in the Arabian

industry first in the Quad City Arabian Horse Club, and he served on the board of directors there.

Dad's work, managing and marketing an insurance program, involved a lot of travel for him all over the country and finally moved the family to Kansas City, Missouri. Dad went out ahead of Mom and I, coming home on the weekends. He quickly befriended a member of GKCAHA, Doyle Mace. Thus began a lifetime family friendship with Doyle, Carol, and their daughter Susana. Doyle encouraged us to go to the American Royal in the fall of 1983 to our first class A rated show. While living in Kansas City, he was a board member of Greater Kansas City Arabian Horse Club. Although Dad did not show at the American Royal that fall, he encouraged and prepared Mom and me for the show. Eventually, with further help from Doyle, Dad did show the stallion in a couple of driving classed at later shows.

The next horses came from other parts of the country; a mare from Minnesota, a mare and a gelding from Texas, and a mare from Oregon. Dad went to judges school, became very interested in the reining classes, and became quite adept at helping to prepare Mom and me for the show ring. He was a patron and supported the stock seat equitation finals at the US Nationals from 1989 to 2005.

Dad and Mom moved to Montana in 2002 until Dad's passing last year. Mom still resides here in Montana and cares for, rides, and loves the horses. I would like for you to remember the Ron Payton that we loved. If Dad were here, he would want you also to remember and place your trust in the Lord that he so loved.

In fond remembrance of Dad,

Jo Ellen Hayworth  
P.O. Box 1104  
Forsyth, MT 59327