

Featured Posse Member Dick Wells Member since 1961

I first started working with horses at a stable in Lake Villa called Ridgeview. I did that on the weekends while I was working as an electrician apprentice. I was 18 and had finally earned enough money to afford to buy a horse. It was a very decent riding horse. I bought it for \$125.00 which at the time wasn't unusual. It was a grade QH. The next horse I bought was a registered QH for \$500.00. I thought that price ridiculous. His name was Rusty's Flash. I used to ride the weekends and compete in barrels, and flag races (Dick's favorite), and the "Handy Horse" event aka "kegs" which I would usually win consistently. These were events at registered QH shows. There used to be QH shows every weekend, some at the fairgrounds, some at the arena next to the Saddle Shop. You could go to a show every weekend in Lake County back then. I came to join the Posse when I met a plumber, Mike Martin while working on a job at Carmel HS. He invited me to a Posse meeting, I liked the people I met there so I joined. We met at a restaurant in Libertyville called Bien Venue owned by Jake Hoff (one of the original charter Sheriff's Posse members). These meetings took place on Tuesdays when the restaurant was closed. It eventually was lost to fire. I also recall meetings at Hadley Campbell's stable. We met at many different places in Lake County, wherever someone was willing to have us.

I've probably owned around 15 horses in my life. Bought most of them from Timmerman's.

Have enjoyed trail riding and parades. Use to ride on many trails in Lake County that weren't formal trails. I used to enjoy the trail rides when a guy would have to lead us out, we would all ride out together at the same time, and the guy would lead us back all at the same time. I enjoyed talking and getting to know other people on the rides.



The best trail rides were Labor Day weekends in Palmyra camping. We used to pull our truck and trailers into a field, tie our horses to the trailer overnight, throw hay down in the trailer (after we cleaned it) and sleep in there. We'd ride to Eagle... it wouldn't be unusual to see 200 horses up there. I'd have to say I remember riding with Mike and Suzie Martin most fondly. They used to live off Dilley Road. Remember riding trails around Stewart Farm and Stearns School Road. My most memorable President was George Graham, I thought he did a really good job.

There was a time that I had moved to Texas but the work didn't remain steady, but I kept my membership in the Posse. Later on, there came a time when my wife Lynn, at the age of 62 got tired of me leaving to go ride with the horse, truck and trailer. She learned how to ride and bought a horse. The first was a straight curly horse, then a Paint (Honor) and then another (J-Lo). J-Lo was a wonderful horse, wish we would have bought her sooner.



Lynn and I don't ride anymore but still enjoy the company of the Posse as always, being retired and a trip now and then to visit my son Gary in Oklahoma who trains Calf-Roping horses for a living. He is an AQHA Professional Horseman and Judges roping classes.

Happy Trails,
Dick Wells