

# OBITUARIES

## David LaSalle



David and Janine LaSalle were honored at the 2016 Greater Boston Charity Horse Show. photo by Terry Young

Born in 1937 in Somerset, MA, to Dr. Arthur and Mildred (Marcille) LaSalle, David grew up in Somerset sharing an early family interest in sailing on the Taunton River and Narragansett Bay. In 1950, his parents bought two ponies for he and his sister Anne. One was the wonderful three-gaited Hackney saddle pony Hob Nob

Rhythm who inspired David's lifelong interest in Hackney ponies and horses.

After graduation from the University of Rhode Island in 1959, David married Janine Lagasse who had recently graduated from Bryant University in RI. Upon graduation they went to work at Danby Farm in Omaha, NE, raising and showing a string of Shetland ponies from the east coast to the Midwest.

In 1960 they were offered the opportunity to return east and reopen Webster Knight II's famed Greyholme Farm, which had closed in the early 1930s. Knight was a scion of the world's largest cotton mill owners BB and R. Knight (Fruit Of The Loom) and a wonderful employer. Known for its Hackney horses in its hey day, Greyholme was strictly a Hackney pony operation at this time, although three Hackney horses were added in 1965, purchased from the late Lawrence Carss' father. Many champion and All-American ponies were produced, including King's Viking, Regal Aire, Double Bubble, Croftland Dandy, Greyholme Swell, Hob Nob Dearest Enemy, Cassilis Echo's Heir, Cassilis Midnite Blue and Cassilis Tailsman.

Upon Knight's death in 1968 Janine and David settled permanently at the farm in N. Scituate, RI, which they had purchased in 1963. Here they continued to build the harness shop business that they had started in 1962. LaSalle Harness Company continues to flourish today under the stewardship of David and Janine's son, Stephen.

Numerous champion and world's champion Hackney ponies have lived at the stable at Peepoad Road over the past 53 years, including Why Worry Julep, Double Bubble, Lucky Dean,

Kilbro's Patent Leather, Romeo's Copycat, T/O Royal Shamrock, Fernwick's Brown Jet, Mr. Jack Daniels, Johnny Dollar, Flyer's Ace Hi, Special Effort, Mark Of Canterbury, Heartland Majesty, Manhattan Sunset, Sir Galahad, Fernwood Frisco Holiday, Cassilis Finalist and Canterbury Convincer, along with a few nice gaited horses, Morgans and road horses.

David was pre-deceased by siblings Elisabeth Wilkinson of New Bern, NC, Dr. Robert A. LaSalle and Atty. Richard N. LaSalle, both of Massachusetts. Survivors include his wife Janine, daughter Julie A. Lang, her children Jennifer A. and Douglas R. Lang, all of N. Scituate, RI, son Stephen D. and his wife Jody of Woodstock, CT and their son Joel D. LaSalle CPA of Cranston, RI. A sibling sister, Anne LaSalle Kachajian and husband George of Somerset, MA, also survive David.



Double Bubble of Hopewell was one of many stars shown by David in the '70s.



"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal."

From an Irish headstone