

# American Cream News

## Special Edition



Fall 2016 Vol. 26 Issue 2a



### **IN MEMORY OF Karene Bunker Topp**

*June 15, 1928 - July 16, 2016*

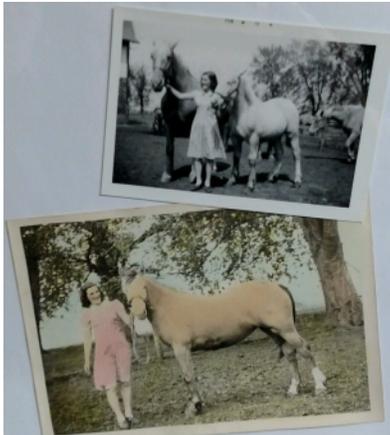


*Connie Purchase and her mare Edy led the procession*



For Karene's funeral Dennis and I took my horse Edy to Radcliffe. The funeral director and I set this up to honor Karene and the Radcliffe community for their contributions to the ACD horses. As you can see, the burial plot is in a lovely country cemetery. Edy was standing at the gate to the cemetery when the procession arrived. We led the + and family and friends thru the cemetery to Karene's plot. Then we stood quietly under a tree off to the side while the service was going on. Following the service almost every family member came over and wanted their picture taken with the breed that Karene helped to save. There were lots of tears from Karene's family and friends, but mostly pride in what that lovely lady had done for these beautiful horses. What an honor it was to be able to participate in this manner.

Edy was just a 2 year old when Karene first met her in Spencer in 2012 at the annual meeting. Four years later we lose Karene, an important member of our association, truly a grand lady. The same day, following the funeral service, I delivered Edy to Wendell's house where she is being bred. There is a time for everything, a time to be born and a time to die.....



Connie Purchase

# Obituary

Karene Margil (Bunker) Topp was born June 15, 1928, near Salem, Henry County, Iowa, the only child of Merle Roscoe and Mabel Easter (Cooper) Bunker. She passed away on July 16, 2016, at Mary Greeley Medical Center, Ames, Iowa, at the age of 88.

Her ancestry is strongly connected to Henry County where her parents and grandparents all were born. She started school in Mediapolis, Iowa, where her parents operated a produce station. The Great Depression times were hard and the family moved several times. She attended schools in the Mt. Pleasant area and in Milton, then at Buckeye No. 9 country school in Hardin County when the Bunker family settled near Radcliffe. Her father was employed by C. T. Rierson at Ardmore Stock Farm. She attended high school in Radcliffe and graduated in 1945 with normal training. At age 17, she was granted a wartime emergency teaching certificate and taught country school for one year at Williams No. 4. In 1946 she married Raynold Richard Topp at Radcliffe Methodist Church. They made their home on the pioneer homestead of Raynold's maternal grandparents (Henry and Albertina Eller) in Sherman Township. There they farmed, raised their family, and remained until moving to Radcliffe in 2005.

Karene loved horses and especially enjoyed Mr. Rierson's American Cream Draft horses, the only draft horse breed developed in America. She was the first secretary of the American Cream Draft Horse Association and served in that capacity for many years. In recognition for this service she rode in a wagon drawn by a team of Cream horses in the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California, in 1996.



*Vince Tobin, Dorothy Smith, and her granddaughter were in the driver's seat, while two friends of theirs, three children, and I rode on the side seats in back of them.*



She inherited a love of horticulture from her parents and was active in the Radcliffe Garden Club for many years. Her vegetable garden always provided produce for her family. She grew irises and many other flowers on the farm and continued to garden after moving to Radcliffe. She also was a nurse and med aide at Bethany Manor in Story City for more than 20 years. One of her lifelong hobbies was perfume bottle collecting. She maintained a membership in the International Perfume Bottle Association and loved to attend their conventions with her daughters.



A devout Christian, Karene was a longtime member of St. John's United Methodist Church in Radcliffe, and active in United Methodist Women, choir, Sunday School, Friendship Bible Class and many mission causes. She was proud to be a certified lay speaker. She participated in sewing and packing nearly 3000 school bags, health kits, sewing kits and layettes for the Methodist In-Gathering. She also actively supported Habitat for Humanity and the Radcliffe Historical Society.



Karene was preceded in death by an infant son Randall in 1949, her mother Mabel in 1994, her father Merle in 1997, and her husband Raynold in 2010. Survivors include: her children, Anne of Chanhassen, Minn.; Jon (Barbara) of Chesterfield, Mo.; Sue (Michael Sugrue) of Naperville, Ill.; and Jay (Terre) of Colorado Springs, Co.; grandchildren, Andrew Topp of Aurora, Ill.; and Katharine Topp (Branden Stein) of Chicago, Ill. Also surviving are her sister-in-law LaVonne Topp, nephew William (Bill) Topp, nieces Jean Topp and Sarah Topp; along with many other relatives and friends.

R.I.P.



July 25, 2016

***Karene Margil Bunker Topp June 15, 1928-July 16, 2016***

How many icons know you personally? Not many I'll bet. Yet when I think of the American Cream Draft Horse Association, I can name two of three who knew me up close and personal. The first iconic name is "Old Granny" the mother of all the breed. I never met her. But the other two icons, C.T. Rierson, my grandfather and Karene Bunker Topp knew me my whole life.

Old Granny left us her progeny, C.T. left us his vision and determination, Karene left us her dedication to a cause she helped start from day one. Without anyone of these 3 icons, there would be no American Draft Horse Association today as we know it. And certainly, without Karene's continuous effort to keep the records of the breed alive when very few people remained interested is a gift from her that no one can have enough gratitude to ever express.

Karene's journey with Creams started in 1939 when her parents, Merle and Mabel Bunker answered an add in a paper for someone to come to work for CT Rierson at the Ardmore Stock Farm in Radcliffe, Iowa. Karene was 11 years old and the trip from Henry County to Radcliffe was purely divine intervention.

I would like to share the story Karene told me in regard to the moving day. It started with the family belongings being loaded into an open stock truck. The truck and the Bunker family in the family car took off for Radcliffe on a cloudy, drizzly late February day. As they got close to Radcliffe, it was evening and darkness had settled in so they stopped at a café/gas station to eat. After their meal, they continued on and got to Radcliffe and headed north thru town to their destination, The Ardmore Stock Farm. About 2 ½ miles from the farm, the car ran out of gas. Karene still remembers her mother, Mabel, being so upset with her father, Merle. "How could you run out of gas, we just stopped at a café/gas station. " Well, after a walk to a farm house, she thinks it was the Hinderaker farm, and being given a can of gas, the family proceeded to the Rierson farm. It was late, the electricity hadn't been turned on in the house they were to occupy, so Merle stayed in that house and Mabel and Karene were invited to spend the night at the Rierson home. By the way, my grandmother's name was Ethel but I never heard Karene call her anything but Mrs. Rierson. That was true as she told the story to me, she said, "Mrs. Rierson invited my mother and me to spend the night with them."

The above story was told to me just days before her death, when I had an extraordinary evening in conversation with Karene at her home in Radcliffe. We conversed for 3 ½ hours and only got from her days in Mediapolis, Iowa where her parents operated a produce station and the family's moving around Henry County during the depression trying to scratch out a living for the family, up to her marriage to Raynold in 1946. We promised each other to continue the conversation after the upcoming Radcliffe Days Community Celebration.

Our conversation continues about her childhood. Karene was an only child and the several moves by the family always had her being the new kid in school. Several times she didn't make friends and was very miserable in the country school near Mt Pleasant. So much so, that her parents paid the tuition to allow her to go to "town school". It was from there that the family moved to rural Radcliffe and she attended country school, Buckeye No. 9. Her life then got better and she enjoyed school and proceeded to graduate from Radcliffe High School in 1945 which was the year the ACDHA was born and Karene was the 17 year old secretary.

During her high school years she was a constant companion of my grandfather as he went around the state forming a group to start the Association. Karene was adamant about the relationship of a young, pretty girl and my grandfather. She told me he was always the perfect gentleman and there were never any off color remarks or jokes.

Karene not only was the secretary of the group, she also was a person who worked the Creams in the field as she told me she many times drove 4 up on a disc or drag. Also, driving the teams on the hay wagon, receiving ten cents per load for her work.

Karene was a good student and very popular in her class. After graduation, Karene was granted an emergency teaching certificate which was made necessary by the lack of teachers due to World War II. The fact she was an excellent student and had great people skills helped. She taught at a country school, Williams No. 4. As we can note Karene overcame her early childhood "outsider" complex, but, as her children will attest, she was always a shy person and her early childhood did have a profound effect on her personality. If she hadn't told me I would have never known she had a semi inferiority complex. I just thought she was hard on herself as we talked about her record keeping. She said she really didn't know what she was doing. I commented, "If that's the case, you had great instincts." I see now that compliments and accolades embarrassed her. She was a humble lady.

As the ACDHA got its start, Karene left her teaching job after 1 year and married Raynold Topp and the couple started their life together on a homestead of Reynold's maternal grandparents in June, 1946. On that farm 5 children were born, four of which survive. An infant son Randall died in 1949, with Anne, Jon, Sue and Jay growing up into very successful adults that Karene was quite proud.

Karene was a member of the Radcliffe Garden club and her gardens were always lush and she shared the bounty with all her friends and neighbors. Karene also used her caring skills as a caregiver as an aide at the Bethany Manor in Story City, Iowa for over 20 years.

Karene was a devout Christian and a pillar in St John's Methodist Church of Radcliffe. When one calls her an active member, that doesn't do justice to the word active. She was in: United Methodist Women Society, sang beautifully in choir and small groups; taught Sunday school, taught Bible Classes and was a one person gang with the Food Pantry as she would collect, box and distribute to those who needed the service. She also gets credit for sewing and packing nearly 3000 school bags, health kits and layettes for Methodists In-Gathering. She was a charter member of the Radcliffe Historical Society and still found time for Habitat for Humanity.

In her obituary was this poem:

Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can.

Karene was a person who not only talked her faith and she was a certified Lay Speaker, but lived her faith daily without fanfare. With all this she still kept her interest in our beloved Creams. It was a thrill for her to be invited and ride in the 1996 Rose Bowl Parade with a team of John Schwartzler's Creams pulling the carriage. She felt honored.

Is it ironic that Karene never owned a horse. She loved horses, especially the Creams. But she told me that it would have been a hardship for the family to keep a horse just to please her fancy. Although she never owned a Cream, she is responsible for all the registered Creams in this world. It is my fervent wish that she has a Cream in heaven. No one deserves it more and the Cream would have the best care possible. Karene Margil Bunker Topp, a very special lady to all who knew her and mourn her passing. May we strive to live up to her standards! God Bless the memory of this Icon.

*Note: It is an honor that Sue asked me to write this memorial to Karene. There are certain people who come and go in one's life that have a profound influence. Karene was one of those people. The sad part is I really didn't know it until it was too late. That is my loss.*

by Clair Rierson

God has called home Karene, one of the most dedicated Christians I have been blessed to know. Those years of dedication and service to her love for the American Cream breed in her youth and beyond, her husband and children, her elderly parents, and always her love of the Lord and her service in the Church and the community will always be remembered. Although I live so few miles from her, at age 90, I am no longer licensed to drive out of the city so was unable to attend the services.

Betsy Ziebell

American Cream Notes

### A TRIBUTE: KARENE BUNKER TOPP RETIRES

By Elizabeth Ziebell

Karene Bunker, a school girl and neighbor of C.T. Rierson, Radcliffe, the first president of the association, was “talked into” becoming the secretary/treasurer of the newly chartered American Cream Draft Horse Association of America in February of 1944. She retired May 4, 1991, after 47 years of faithful service to the Association. “There was a time in the '60s and '70s that I was seriously considering contacting someone in another breed to find out what I should do to close out the Association and find a permanent home for the records,” Karene confided.

“My father worked for C.T. Rierson,” continued Karene, “and I loved to help with the horses. I’ve probably driven as many hours on horse-drawn equipment as any woman alive today,” Karene told the gathering of 26 members and guests. “The American Cream Draft Horse descended from a draft type mare with an outstanding cream color, located in central Iowa during the early part of the 20th century and is the only draft breed originating in the United States. By mating her off-spring to other well-known draft breeds, the type and quality had been improved while the color was maintained. In 1935 a special effort was made to make a distinct breed of them. In 1948, they were recommended for recognition by the National Stallion Enrollment Board and in 1950 they were recognized as standard by the Iowa Department of Agriculture,” she said.

“The ideal American Cream was a medium cream color with white mane and tail, pink skin and amber colored eyes. Some white markings were also desirable. Colts foaled had nearly white eyes and by maturity had amber colored eyes. The horses eligible for registry all had the pink skin. Pink skin was the determining factor in securing this rich cream color. Past experience proven that dark-skinned Creams often did not have a satisfactory color and when mated with the American Creams, generally produced too light or nearly white offspring. The pink skinned Creams varied but little in color throughout the year and their white markings contrasted beautifully with their rich cream color. Linebreeding and inbreeding were also used as a means of producing this very desirable new draft breed admired by all who saw them,” she continued.

“The American Cream horse was classified as a medium heavy draft type. An average weight of mares would have been from 1,600 to 1,800 pounds with the stallion weighing from 1,800 to as much as a ton, and stood 15.3 to 16.3 hands.



"C.T. died in 1957 and his herd of American Creams were sold. A few were transferred but only a handful remained in central Iowa. By that time we had accepted 58 owners and/or breeders of Creams into the Association and registered 199 Creams. We had Creams in New York, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota and Missouri but the advent of the tractors and the growth of the farm away from being 160 acres with a three-year rotation of corn, oats and hay seriously marked the decline of Creams and all breeds as well," Karene noted. "For many years during the late '60s and '70s there were no registrations of Creams and no new memberships," the former secretary noted. "However, Arnold Hockett of Estherville, Iowa, and Richard Eads of Lanark, Illinois, were two small farm owners who found themselves with Creams in the '60s and liking them, decided to continue to breed. An early comer to the rebuilding of the Creams, William Walczak, purchased a mare in 1979 and applied for membership and registration, thus renewing my hopes of the breed being reestablished. Richard Eads and Arnold Hockett both applied for membership in 1981 and registered additional animals, followed shortly by Clarence Ziebell of Charles City who joined and registered a stallion. A reorganization meeting was held in 1982 in Dubuque at which time Richard Eads, Arnold Hockett, Gloria and William Walczak, Clarence Ziebell and myself were elected directors. William Walczak became president, I remained Secretary/treasurer and Clarence Ziebell became vice-president. Arnold Hockett was unable to make the meeting but we had to have six directors, so we elected him a director. The directors voted to open registry and for a time members will be able to register females with dark skin but the stallions must have pink skin. We were starting over again for all practical purposes," concluded Karene.

The members and guests, who gathered in Charles City, May 4, will always remain indebted to Karene for the invaluable service she rendered all the years when the Association was active and in the efforts to once more grow into a viable organization worthy of being recognized.

Penny Sperlak and Arnold Hockett were elected to a one-year term as directors in 1991 and returned for a three-year term July 8, 1992 at the Annual Meeting in Charles City where the Association hosted the Draft Horse and Mule Association of America tour group in the afternoon. Dan Williams and Elizabeth Ziebell were elected for a two-year term and Frank Sperlak and Karen Smith were elected for a three-year term. Officers elected in 1991 and returned to office for 1992-93 year were Frank Sperlak, president; Dan Williams, vice-president; and Elizabeth Ziebell, secretary/treasurer.

Dan and Brenda Williams and daughter, Shari, of Gihnan, Iowa showed a team of mares and a stud colt. Don and Linda Johnson, Russell, Iowa, showed a mare, a three-year old filly and a two-year old filly. Frank Sperlak, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, showed a three-year old and a two-year old filly. The Ziebell's, at whose farm the meeting was held, showed a four-year old stallion, a 16 year-old "grandmother" and her 12-, 7-, 5-, and 3-year-old daughters with two foals at side, a mother and daughter team, 8 and 5 years, and a mare, 11, recently purchased from Ohio. People from 22 states were on the tour and many were seeing Creams for the first time. The members of the American Cream Draft Horse Association were pleased and proud to have been asked to welcome these folks and their captains, the Farrells.

For information concerning the American Cream Draft Horse and/or the Association, write Elizabeth Ziebell, secretary; 2065 Noble Avenue, Charles City, Iowa 50616-9710.

*published in "The Small Farmer's Journal Vol. 16 No. 3" Summer 1992*

## Helping Save A Draft Horse Breed

By Frank Lessiter posted on August 12, 2016 in the American Farriers Journal

A few weeks ago, I learned Karene Topp had passed away. She had served for more than 4 decades as secretary/treasurer of the American Cream Draft Horse Association.

I'm sure most of you haven't heard of Karene. And its also likely most readers know little about American Cream horses.

I got to know Karene and learned about the breed in the mid-1970s when I wrote the 256-page Horsepower book that dealt with the role of draft horses in North America. Published in 1977 and selling over 120,000 copies, the book featured a close look at how draft horses were still being used and included chapters on the Belgian, Clydesdale, Percheron Shire, Suffolk and Westphalian breeds.

The book also includes a chapter called, "The Breed That Didn't Make It," which told the story of the American Cream horses. In 1977, there were only a half dozen of these beautiful creatures left in the United States.

### **"Old Granny"**

Born sometime between 1900 and 1905, the matriarch of the breed, often referred to as "Old Granny," was a draft type mare of unknown ancestry with an outstanding rich cream color. As her offspring foaled on central Iowa farms, horsemen realized the old mare continually bred true to her "gold champagne" color. The rich cream color was maintained even when her offspring were mated with other draft horse breeds to improve type and quality.

An ideal American Cream features a white mane, white tail, medium cream color, pink skin and amber-colored eyes. That pink skin is the determining factor in producing the rich cream color that exists in light, medium and dark blends.



*Posing with an American Cream at Virginia's Colonial Williamsburg are Karen Watson, supervisor of barn operations for coach and livestock, and American Farriers Journal's Frank Lessiter.*

Yet it was around 1935 before any serious efforts were made to develop the cream-colored animals into a distinct draft horse breed.

Interested breeders met in 1944 to organize the American Cream Horse Association. Their efforts paid off when the National Stallion Enrollment Board recognized the American Cream as a draft horse breed in 1948. Two years later, the Iowa Department of Agriculture recognized the American Cream as an official breed.

Yet only 196 horses were registered during the first 16 years of association operation. Draft horses were quickly losing their popularity as tractors and mechanization took over the work on millions of American farms.

By the late 1950s, there were only 200 living American Creams owned by 41 breeders. And the demise of the breed was taking place so fast that only two Creams were registered in 1960.

### **End Of An Era**

When I visited with Karene Topp in the mid 1970s, the breed appeared to be on its way out. More than 40 years later, I still remember how depressed she was when talking about the future of the Creams.

As I wrote in *Horsepower*, she told me, "The demise of the breed is a strange and discouraging situation. They were nice horses and of good quality. They were practical since they weren't huge. And they were beautiful with that rich cream color and good disposition.

"But they were just a bit too late for the times. They simply came along too late."

To my amazement, writing about the likely demise of the breed in the book is credited by a number of American Cream enthusiasts with actually helping save the breed. I think they gave me more credit than is deserved, but I'm humbled to have played a minor role in saving the breed.

The American Cream features a white mane, white tail, medium cream-color, pink skin and amber-colored eyes. The pink skin is the determining factor in producing the rich cream color.

Here's what happened, as documented in several paragraphs from the group's Summer 1991 newsletter that described how the breed's revival took place:

"For 14 years, the association was inactive except for one transfer of ownership. Karene (Topp) almost turned in the charter, but she didn't and the association is once again strong.

"Karene feels some credit should go to Frank Lessiter who wrote a book called *Horsepower*, published in 1977. One chapter is dedicated to American Creams.

"From that one chapter, Karene received several letters inquiring about Creams. Along those whose interest was piqued by this article was William Walczak. He came to Hubbard, Iowa, to find out about the association and was the prime mover in having a reorganization meeting, which took place at Dubuque, Iowa, in 1992."

As a result of that meeting, interest in the breed was rekindled and led to a revival of the American Cream. The name of the organization was soon changed to the American Cream Draft Horse Association.

In 1992, the existing Creams were blood typed by animal geneticists at the University of Kentucky, and for the first time were recognized as a distinct draft horse breed — not just a color.

### Survival Mode



The breed today has about 110 members, but registration numbers still aren't great. Some 630 horses have been registered since the reorganization in 1992. The association's current registry includes 197 full-blooded mares plus 208 geldings and stallions. Another 57 mares and 23 geldings and stallions are involved in an upgrading program.

Classified as a rare breed in many circles, the American Cream is the only draft horse breed developed in the United States still in existence. The Livestock Conservancy and the Equus Survival Trust, two groups involved with protecting rare animal breeds, consider its numbers critical. In addition, American Creams are part of the rare

breeds program maintained by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Virginia.

### A Dedicated Lady

In 1992, Karene Topp retired as secretary/treasurer of the association, a position she had held for 47 years. Among the highlights of her career was being among the first American Cream riders to march in the 1996 Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, Calif.

It's been 40 years since I spent a warm summer afternoon visiting with Karene. I still remember how depressed she seemed while talking about the future of the breed. The good news is that it has succeeded, in part because of her dedication to the breed over nearly 5 decades.

### In Remembrance

We only met Karene once at an American Cream Draft Horse Association meeting, but she left a lasting impression. She was so friendly and sweet that we felt that we had known her for a long time. She gave us a wealth of information about our horses and where they came from. Our sincere and deepest condolences to her family.

Terry and Marilyn Precord

Karene's passing represents the closing of the organizational chapter in our breed History. C.T. Rierson & Company was blessed to have Karene Topp to support them in building the American Cream Draft Horse Registry. None of us would know each other today, had it not been for the efforts of that small group of people in Iowa. Thankfully, much of Karene's and Clair's Rierson's knowledge of those early years efforts have been captured on Video thanks to the foresight of dedicated ACDHA members. We now realize how precious that information is to our Association. Karene's Memorial procession was led into the cemetery by an American Cream Draft Horse Mare thanks to Connie Purchase devoting her time to help show respect from all of the ACDHA Membership. It was a fitting tribute for a very wonderful Gal.

John Schwartzler-President ACDHA

## History of American Cream Drafts at Colonial Williamsburg

The first time I connected with Karen Bunker Topp was when Colonial Williamsburg Foundation decided to incorporate a horse breed into their rare breeds program which started in 1986. Most horse breeds as we think of today were not established yet as breeds but types and the ones that were around Arabian and Thoroughbred were not exactly rare or what C.W. needed. I suggested to my then manager Richard Nicoll about American Cream Drafts. He said sure if you can get them donated. At that time we depended a lot on the kindness of people to get horses for our needs.

We spoke in depth on the phone and I joined as an associate member of the association. Karene sent me all kinds of information and a small slip of white paper typed with about six names and addresses on it (I am sure I still have it somewhere) which were the breeders at that time. I did my little cover letter and stuffed my envelopes with color brochures about C.W. And away they went!

Somehow in the back of my mind I think Karene made a few phone calls or at least got a few from the breeders I contacted. Mr. William Walczak who was the President of the association was the first to respond and donated a coming 3 year old stallion, Mr. Richard Eads shortly after offered C.W. two mares (for a very low cost) age 4 and 1 ½, and a 10 month old colt. The 4 year old mare ended up being in foal.

I kept in touch with Karene and in May of 1991 the association met in Cedar Rapids, IA for the first time in many years. Karene stepped down as secretary and gave the reins to Betsy Ziebell. The association did not meet again until 3 years later, which is how it was back then.

Please if you get a chance go on line and read Vol.1 #1 and Vol.2 #2 of the Newsletter to learn more about Karene.

My last little bit is after she left office I still kept in touch with her about the association history and she would send me things that she would find. I have some of the original wooden blocks used to print the pamphlet "The History and Development of the Cream Horse". Then one day, these folded pieces of paper came and when I opened it up I almost hit it the floor, it was one of the original sale flyers from C.T. Rierson's estate sale. On it was a list of cream horses for sale with descriptions of weight and height. HISTORY!

At Karene's passing (Karene, Clair Rierson and I) were trying to get a collection together for an exhibit in Radcliff for the 75th anniversary of the association. It will be done in her memory, just might take a little more effort without Karene physically not being there, but she will be in spirit! Her quiet manner, laugh, diplomacy and her love of the American Creams will be something I will always remember-

Karen Watson

After our 2016 ACDHA meeting in Reno we were contacted by Clair Rierson about the loss our first secretary/treasurer of the American Cream Draft Horse Association, Karene Topp.

This lady put her heart and soul into representing our horses with the love and passion of a true hero for our breed. She is mentioned repeatedly in our documented history and for those who had the privilege to meet and talk with her about her beginning with the "cream horses" you were immediately mesmerized with the history she carried with her everyday. This is a person we will never forget, I know I won't even though it was only once.

-Sue Engel

## Thankful for Karene

Many of you knew Karene Topp much longer than I did, but here are a few of the memories I have of her.

During my tenure as President I had the privilege to meet and talk with her a number of times. I was always impressed with her ability to recall our Associations history and her gentle manner.

We were extremely fortunate that we had the opportunity to talk with her and that she did do some recordings of her memories. What a neat opportunity to have been able to talk to someone that was there when the organization was begun and knew personally those involved.

I believe our breed exists today in a large part because of Karene. After the Association became inactive she did not give up, she maintained our early records and passed them on to the new officers.

It was very fitting that Connie and Dennis Purchase were able to have a team of Creams at her funeral representing the breed that she helped create and save.

Frank Tremel  
Past President, ACDHA



The American Cream Draft Horse-a brief history. It is a 30 minute DVD commentary narrated by Karene Topp and produced by Lori Topp in 2011. In this she talks about the American Cream Draft horses beginnings and the people who worked to save this breed. This DVD is a treasure to all owners and those interested in the history of our breed. The cost is \$20 which includes shipping in the USA. Order them through Nancy Lively or myself (Sue Engel). You can contact me at: sulynnengel@yahoo.com or Sue Engel, 54658 Bent Rd., Marcellus, MI 49067. Nancy Lively's contact info is: lively123@comcast.net or Nancy Lively, 193 Crossover Rd., Bennington, VT 05201. Use the coupon below to order:

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