

Bud Epp

Inducted 2007

About fifty years ago Bud started working with harness horses in Rice Lake. He has been an owner, trainer, driver and advisor to anyone that needs or wants his help. During this time he has had “hundreds” of winners. His first horse was named Monte Ota, which brings back many memories as well as the rest: Whiz By, Little Joker, John Allen, Bret’s Blaze, Dorset, Little Alice, Billy Brooks, Minnesota Fats, Jenna Direct, Keyed Up, Steady Bo, Little Fiddler, Bestrow, Happy Wish and many more.

Like many horsemen, Bud has done it all, including shoeing, both for himself and numerous others until his health would no longer allow him to do so. He continues to give his advice and checks the angles and toe lengths before the farrier finishes the job.

Earlier in his career he drove as well as trained; Bud’s last drive was in Rice Lake with Dorset. This horse “went down” near the front of the grandstand. Among other disappointments was the most devastating, the fire in Elkhorn that burned his stable of horses. At that time he lost Bestrow, Happy Wish and several other horses. Like other horsemen Bud picked up the pieces and continues in this great sport.

Bud works extremely hard to promote harness racing at the Barron County Fair. He does radio work, poster advertisements, obtains donations for the purse money and donations for the grandstand for between the races, secures bedding for the horsemen and works closely with the fair board. Bud tries in every way to make it enjoyable for the horsemen as well as provide a great show for the people viewing the races from the grandstand and the many “railbirds” around the track.

This man thinks like a horse at times and seems to know what the horse needs or wants. He is and has been a great promoter and is very dedicated to the sport.

The Wisconsin Harness Horse Association welcomes Bud Epp into the Wisconsin Harness Racing Hall Of Fame.

Nominated by Patty Strand