

# Allyn "Bud" Larson

Inducted 1997

Like most harness racing fans, Bud got his baptism "hot walking" horses as a young boy. He spent a few summers traveling with the Friess Stable. He eventually got into the business as an owner with his first horse Dusty Dynamic. Many of the Larson horses were raised and trained in Rice Lake, WI. Melody Joy raced on the fair circuit and later produced the likes of Toot's Lady, M.J. Messenger and Chad's M.J. Bud Larson had a huge impact on the Wisconsin racing scene for many years.

For many contemporary racing enthusiasts he will be remembered as the owner/operator of the Larson starting gate. Probably his most significant contribution went unnoticed by not only the fan in the stands but also his peers. When the Barron County fair board decided it could not and would not financially support harness racing, it was Bud Larson who worked tirelessly to get the dollars from both private and business sources.

His energetic, full speed ahead personality was tempered with his positive thinking. It could be pouring rain and he could spot the blue sky where others would see clouds. Negative thinking didn't appear to be part of Bud Larson's character. Bud loved racing almost as much as he loved kids. He would have made a great teacher. In reality he was a teacher, his classroom had no walls.

If you knew Bud Larson, you had to learn a few lessons in life. Bud Larson will enter the Wisconsin Harness Racing Hall of Fame not for his training and driving accomplishments, but for his dedication and vision and his willingness to work hard to promote our sport and cause. We reap the rewards of his efforts. Bud made a difference, isn't that what life is all about?

Nominated by Kathleen Larson

