

Kathleen "Toots" Larson

Inducted 1997

There are many words that describe Kathleen Larson. Energetic, tireless, dedicated, devoted, compassionate, understanding, foresight, detail, frugal, courage, the list is endless, and Kathleen's leadership is unmatched.

Kathleen's attention to detail caught the eye of various fair officials. Soon "Toots" was clerking fairs in the Midwest. A Canadian track near Thunder Bay needed someone to help out for a week or two. This short stay became a summer task as she was trained on the job to chart lines. To this day Toots is still a licensed charter and judge.

The late Jim Laird, past president of the WHHA, recognized and respected Kathleen's talent, skill and high energy level. The two worked closely during Jim's tenure as president of our association. Upon Jim's death, Kathleen's courage and strength were imperative to the continued success of the WHHA from a leadership perspective.

Kathleen continues to take entries and also clerks fairs and contracts out the Larson Starting Gate for WHHA meets and additional fairs. The WHHA board and membership have been blessed with Kathleen's hours and hours of devoted time to our cause. Kathleen had been on the board for four terms. She has been our President, Secretary and Treasurer. Her familiarity with fair boards around the state is priceless. Kathleen is an icon around the state, an ambassador for our association.

Together in life and together in racing, it is only right that Kathleen "Toots" Larson be inducted into the Hall of Fame with her late husband and friend, Allyn "Bud" Larson. A small thank you for such a huge commitment.

Nominated by the Wisconsin Harness Horse Association Board of Directors