

Leon Laurent

Inducted 2001

Leon Laurent did whatever he could to promote the sport of harness racing and owned and trained many, many race horses. When Leon passed away at the age of 82, we not only lost a good friend, but also a mentor.

Leon began racing his own horses in the 1950's and never stopped. He had a soft spot in his heart for trotters, thus resulting in his pride and joy, Better Boy. Under the reins of Elwood Magee, Better Boy knocked off some of Wisconsin's best pacers in the late 1970's.

Leon not only was driven to race horses whenever possible, but he was also deeply concerned about the health of his stable. On a bitter cold night in Canada, Leon placed a wool sock on his horses tongue to prevent the bit from sticking and reducing the risk of frostbite. He was never discouraged by poor performance in his horses. "After all, you're doing something you enjoy, and in time both you and the horse will get better."

Nominated by Janelle Suppanz & Jody Renard