

Roland (Rollie) & Ruth Rosenboom

One of Roland's first experiences with sheep was to feed and fit a carload of Shropshire lambs for the Chicago International Livestock Show.

Rollie had a sheep shearing business during high school with his brother Russell. The Ag Teacher, Mr. "Max" Boundreau would shear with him. Max would get Rollie out of school at 2:00 to shear and then sometimes he would have to return to school for a track meet. To this day, Rollie has the shot put record at Central High School. More than 56 days of school were missed for work.

In January 1960, Rollie married Ruth and soon afterward bought his first purebred Suffolks. In 1962 he obtained his auctioneering license. In 1967 earned his real estate license, something which his mother and father had.

Also in 1967, Rollie had the Champion Ram at Sedalia. The ram sold for \$400 and Rollie thought he had gone to heaven. Then, in 1968, he had the Champion ewe at Sedalia.

In 1978 Rollie purchased the first fifteen yearling ewes of the 153 that were sold. That probably was the most nervous twenty minutes of his life. The first yearling ewe brought \$16,000 and the second brought \$8000. Larry Mead helped set up the purchase by giving four people numbers to buy a total of 15. No one knew the place except Larry and Roland. After the first two sold, Rollie began to wonder where he would get the money. He bought those ewes because he knew that Walkin Tall was the buck to breed them to and he certainly was. Shortly after this purchase, five out of the first six ewes or rams at Louisville carried the Walkin Tall blood.

Roland bought a six seat plane and had an aluminum crate made to deliver rams. His son Lyn had his pilot's license at age 17 which is the youngest a pilot's license was issued. The plane also was loaded with PA equipment to do many of the sales.

After doing production sales for many breeders, Rollie was invited to be one of the auctioneers at the Midwest Livestock ram sale in Sedalia. He continued this tradition for approximately 25 years until they decided to have Democrats do the job.

Rollie did several production sales at his farm. One of the memorable production sales was that of Steve George. There was a ram named Vegas that sold for \$40,000.

With the help of Larry Mead, he did sales all over the United State and Canada. One of the best sales they had together was the one where Larry forgot the catalogs. Larry always seemed to remember the name of every person bidding on sheep along with their fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers along with even some of their birthdays. Roland remembers Larry crawling in the rafters of his pole barn to do a shot in the game of horse basketball. Larry was an amazing man! Rollie could write a book on the experiences and fun the two of them had during the grueling sale season.

Roland served on the National Suffolk Board of Directors for 23 years. The Board was comprised of the greatest bunch of guys that he had ever worked with. They are still some of his best friends.

Roland also spent time with Roy Warrick and Byron Good. The two men did a lot to help Rollie with his breeding program when he started in the Suffolk business.