

From the RALHS Summer 2006 newsletter:

I am always being asked how a guy who lives in Johnson County, Kansas got interested in the history of R.A. Long. Actually, my parents had a farm just a few miles from Longview Farm (Lee's Summit, Missouri). I guess you could say that my fascination with Mr. Long and my love for Longview Farm started ten years before I was born.

My father came to Kansas City in 1946 and signed a contract to have a six o'clock morning radio show. It just so happened that Dad had a horse named Copper that he showed at the American Royal (Kansas City) in 1947 in the Parade class. (A few years later, he bought Gene Autry's 16 hand Palomino "Robin Hood"). He stabled Copper across from Mrs. Combs and her horses at the Royal. My father's life time friendship started with Mrs. Combs but more so with Dave Smith, Sr. and Johnny Haffey (Mrs. Combs' horse trainers).

By the time I came along, Mrs. Combs had stopped showing but would still come out to the Show Barn on Longview Farm to see her horses. My dad would go to Longview to see his friends and I would tag along. Actually, I would beg to go. I would have the run of the place – helping the boys wipe down the carriages and carts, sweeping the floors and cleaning the stalls. I guess I was blessed with the knowledge even at that young age that Longview Farm was one of a kind. Dad would tell me, "Son, you would have to go back East or to Europe to see anything like Longview".

It wasn't until I got older that my interest in Mr. Long and his life accomplishments developed. There is no amount of money anyone could pay me for my memories of Mrs. Combs and Longview Farm.

I thank my Father for helping me with this story. Even at the age of 88, he could still remember the names, events, and dates better than I did. Thanks! Dad for the memories! Those memories make me even more determined to tell the story of R.A. Long and his legacy.

This organization (the R.A. Long Historical Society) will be about collecting stories, memories and artifacts and sharing and displaying them. It will be about the preservation of truth.

The whole nation should know the name of R.A. Long as well as they know the names of Vanderbilt and Rockefeller.

Tim Sullivan

TIMOTHY "TIM" SULLIVAN 1955 – 2014

Timothy Albert Sullivan, 59, of Olathe, KS,
passed away on Friday, May 9, 2014.

He was an avid sports fan of the Kansas City Royals baseball team, The Kansas City Chiefs football team and the University of Kansas basketball team.

He was instrumental in creating the R.A. Long Historical Society and served on the Board as its President from its inception in 2006.



From the RALHS Board:

"Tim always admired what R.A. Long stood for – honesty, industriousness, high morals – and yet Mr. Long was a real *gentle* man, giving back of his fortune to make lives better, especially for mill workers or farm workers he employed".

"Tim – we certainly will miss you! We continue our mission..."

We are dedicated to preserving the legacy of R. A. Long and his family through projects which educate with integrity and truth".

"Tim always had something new and interesting to talk about each meeting. We will miss that presence".

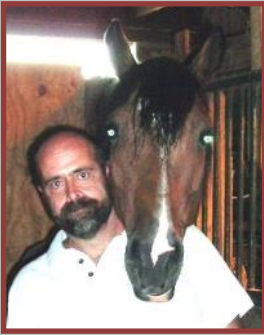
"From the first time I met Tim I was struck by his passion and enthusiasm for preserving the legacy of R. A. Long. Tim always spoke reverently about Mr. Long's Christian values, philanthropy and work ethic. Tim will be greatly missed by those of us who share an affection for R. A. Long, the Long family, and Longview Farm".

"He was really dedicated to promoting this history and it will be difficult to replace Tim and his enthusiasm".

"Mostly, we will miss his friendship..."
Tim, thanks for the memories!



From the President



I met Tim Sullivan almost 15 years ago. At that time I was the President of the Carriage & Driving Society of Greater Kansas City. Temperature was 100 degrees that August day and I was showing one of several carriage displays for Corinthian Hall during an ice cream social. Tim sought me out and I remember him wearing shorts and carrying his signature "black notebook". I in turn was sporting a 3-piece vintage 1900's grey wool tuxedo and wearing a 10-inch top hat. Tim looked at me like I was crazy (I must have been) and remarked "you must be Craig Walker"!

Tim soon secured my membership to Friends of Corinthian Hall. Shortly thereafter I joined him on the board as Vice President while Tim served in the President's role. In 2006 we left Corinthian Hall to form the R.A. Long Historical Society with our primary focus on Mr. Long and the Long family. Tim again served as President and I accepted as Vice.

We've accomplished many things to honor the Long family during this time. Horse classes at the American Royal, winning divisional first place in the American Royal parade, winning four National awards with our documentary, "Ours to Give", a marker in Columbus, KS honoring Mr. Long's first lumber company, archives for a Longview Farm time capsule, refurbishment of some of Loula Long Comb's prize winning trophies, our book "Longview Farm, Biography of a Dream Come True", and various displays around the Lee's Summit community.

Tim was always amazed at how much we'd accomplished in such little time.

He will be missed.

As your new President I have big shoes to fill. Looking ahead I would like to increase our membership and invite you to become more involved in our group. Please consider attending our Annual Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 18 at Jumpin' Catfish in Lee's Summit. (Details in this newsletter)

Lastly, we are looking to photograph and catalog all our current archives and I would greatly appreciate the donation of a useable laptop to enable displays, and assist with programs.

Please contact me if you might be able to help in this or any capacity.

You can reach me at (816) 779-4100.



"Honoring the past while looking to the future"
Your President, Craig Walker
and C R Revelation

