

November 25, 2007 – Greenwood, Indiana

Chris Copeland, long time supporter of Indiana Whips & Wheels driving club and husband of club founder Linda Copeland, died of an apparent heart attack Sunday at their Greenwood home. Viewing was Wednesday evening and a Celebration of Life ceremony took place at the Rocklane Christian Church on Thursday morning. His cremains were interred in the Greenwood Cemetery at a private family service on Saturday.

Chris and Linda were nearly inseparable during their seventeen years together as they bred and trained horses while also managing a boarding stable. They built a new house, finishing much of it themselves, something they were very proud of. In the last couple of years the “herd” was increased as two more terriers, Connor and Tucker, joined Rocky.

Chris touched the lives of so many people in Johnson and surrounding counties not only because he came from such a large family but because of his various endeavors. Whether it was taking over the family seed business and farming operation, running his own excavating company or maintaining refrigeration equipment for Kroger third shift for over six years, Chris did it all with a smile. All the while he and Linda kept the horse farm going.

Many people at the services commented on how hard working he was. When questioned about the enormity of an impending task, Chris would just shrug and say it had to be done. He would never waste time fretting over a job or even think about putting it off. Instead, he would dive right in and have the job half completed before you would realize it needed to be done.

It was not all work and no play, though. Each year a group of six or eight buddies would take a week off to go fishing in Canada. Fishing was something he always loved to do and the many pictures on display at the viewing told us this was something he had enjoyed since he was a little kid.

His other “hobby” was helping Linda with the horse operation. We in the driving community remember him looking after the horses at shows and getting all dressed up to ride on the back of the carriage during dressage. But the reward for all the hard work came when it was time for the marathon; then it was time to have fun riding on the back as Linda flew around the obstacles.

The Whips and Wheels driving club and specifically the Combined Driving Event owe so much to this one individual; there is just not room to list all the things he has done for us. He went about everything in such a quiet way as to not draw attention to himself that many people did not realize he was the one responsible for it all. We will all certainly miss his great work on the grill at shows and meetings alike.

One sentence in his obituary sums up the life of Chris Copeland best—he never hesitated to drop what he was doing and help anyone in need. He left us much too early and we will all miss him very much. He will live always in our hearts and through his legacy- the Chris Copeland Memorial Covered Bridge at Hoosier Horse Park or Chris’ Crossing as it will be called.

Memorials may be sent to Covered Bridge Project, 9901 Heather Hills Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46229.

Cards may be sent to 1181 Matthews Rd, Greenwood, IN 46143.