

GORDON & CAROLYN TURNBULL
Posse Members since 1969

Our involvement with horses began a few years after moving to the Libertyville area in 1958. Several neighbor families kept horses, which caught our interest, and soon we joined their ranks with our first horse, a decent looking 15 hand TB/Quarter type grade gelding purchased from friend, Rudy Calzavara. My neighbor friend and Posse member, Donald Kjesbo, now deceased, recruited me to join the Lake County Sherriff's Posse in 1969, some 8 years after the Sherriff's Posse became active. At the time, Carolyn and I had a young family of 4 children; Gordon (Skip) 14, Susan 9, Jim 3 & Becky 1. Soon we added an additional piece of land, a small barn, an Appaloosa mare, purchased from Jerry Will, and our first horse trailer, purchased from George Graham. After five years of involvement with Posse activities, I was elected Vice President in 1974, along with Jim Ferguson as President. In 1975 I was elected President, along with Carl Henrich as Vice President. I was elected in 1977 to the Secretary/Treasurer position, with Earl Pegelow as President. I then served on the Board of Directors for a number of years thereafter until I was elected President again in 1994.

1975, my first year as President of the Sherriff's Posse, was a very challenging year for our club. Incorporation of the club became necessary to protect its officers and members from liability law suits and, in the process, we were forced to change our club's name from the Lake County Sherriff's Posse to the Lake County Mounted Posse, Inc. After 18 years, dues were raised for the first time. Also, the Posse parade saddles were sold after being unused for 10 years. The changes were controversial but most members agreed they were necessary and had to be made. For several years thereafter, however, I was remembered by some as "Oh yeah, you're the guy that changed the club name, raised the dues and sold the club saddles!"

Trail riding, horse shows and camping with Posse friends became regular weekend activities in the early years while our family was growing up. Transporting our family and horses to Posse activities was not easy as it usually required two vehicles; our truck to haul the horse trailer and our family automobile to haul the rest of the family. This was especially true for out-of-town camping and trail riding as we started with a tent and then later graduated to a travel trailer. By 1976 we acquired our first motor home and traveled with our horses, cross country along with five other Posse families, with the Bicentennial Wagon Train to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania celebrating our country's 200th birthday. That once-in-a-lifetime, unforgettable experience, encouraged other Posse members to consider attending out-of-state extended trail ride/camping activities that has continued to this day. Our family grew up with horses and the Posse. Our two oldest children later found their way to Oklahoma where they were involved with horses and livestock. Our oldest son has been involved with raising and training quarter horses since a teenager and continues today to be involved with the horse industry. After retiring, we purchased a small horse ranch in Oklahoma but, after 10 years of part time residency, we decided that the horse business was more suited to the younger generation and we sold our ranch in favor of traveling in our motor home. Little did we realize, 48 years ago, that membership in the Posse would have such a lasting impact on our family's future.

Looking back, our fondest Posse memories, that will last a lifetime, are the many friendships we formed with good people who love and enjoy horses. We learned that involvement with the Posse was the perfect way to spend time with friends and family. It afforded us the **opportunity to make new friends who shared their passion for horses; to travel to places we wouldn't have gone to otherwise, and to meet people we would never have met.** A lot of my life was spent riding horses and viewing the world through the ears of a horse; I think the rest I've just wasted!