



Larry Snavely, Kansas History Maker, 1996

Larry was interviewed for the KS History Maker and filled out a questionnaire. This is some of the information that he shared at that time.

Larry held many offices in both state and local clubs when he started his adult rabbit hobby in 1975. He was President of the Progressive RBA, KAW Valley, Missouri New Zealand Club, and KSRBA. He was a director of the New Zealand Federation and a show superintendent for all of these clubs.

He started raising rabbits when he was 10 years old with New Zealand Whites and a few Reds. He says that he "just always liked New Zealand Reds." He quit rabbits when he was 15 but met Leo Callahan in 1974 and got started again with a very good trio of Reds. In 1975, he won Best Red with a doe from Leo. He won six Best Variety Red at nationals and 15 Best in Shows over the years. He is nationally known for his Red New Zealands.

Larry says his most notable accomplishment are building his strong line of Red New Zealands over the past 20 plus years. For many years he promoted rabbits by working with 4-H members in Wyandotte County, KS. He judged many 4-H shows and many county fair shows.

Larry was an ARBA Registrar. He helped organize a District 5 Judges' Conference in conjunction with a Kansas State RBA Convention. He presented information about the New Zealand breed at this and many other conferences.

In 2009, Larry was presented with a life membership as part of the KAW Valley Rabbit Club 50th Anniversary celebration.

When asked about changes since he started showing rabbits, he noted that the four class breeds have really taken off. The shows are bigger and there are many more women judges. When Larry started feeding Purina it was \$4.50 for a bag. He could earn \$2.50 for a 4 to 4 ½ pound rabbit.

If he could give a new breeder starting advise he would suggest that they, " stay with one breed and learn and work with that breed or variety of that breed. Buy rabbits from a successful breeder and line breed to get the best type, then you will win!"

" I would like to say that I have had a great time showing rabbits. I think a lot of rabbit people. They are the best around. And I don't want to forget my best friend Leo Callahan. We showed together for around thirteen years (in 1996). Leo helped me get started in Reds. I'll never forget the great times showing our New Zealand Reds. (Thanks very much, Leo. It was fun!) Larry Snively

Larry continued to breed and show New Zealand and Florida Whites through 2012. He passed away after a battle with cancer on January 14, 2013. He will be missed by all of his rabbit friends and family.