

George David Bartram

Knight of Cedar Lane
Baltimore County, Maryland
Inducted 1979
Charter Member

George Bartram was born December 6, 1924 on Sparrows Point, in Baltimore County, Maryland. At the age of 6 the family including his younger sister, Mary Lou, moved to Cedar Lane in Kingsville. A pony and two horses were bought and George and Mary Lou began their riding careers. A neighbor, Mr. Paul Fleury, taught George to joust along with his own sons. He coached them and often drove them and their horses to the jousts.

George won his first tournament in 1936 at age 11. In 1940 he won his first professional class at St. Stephen's Church in Bradshaw, MD. In 1942 he won all but one of the tournaments in which he competed. Serving with the 1st Marine Division in the South Pacific during World War II interrupted his jousting from 1943 to 1945. Upon his return he continued to joust and win.

His contributions off the track were equally impressive. George and his sister, Mary Lou organized the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association in 1950 to help schedule jousts so they didn't conflict and also to standardize the riding rules. George served for 10 years as the first president of the MJTA. The first official State Championship was established in 1950 and George won this as well as the 1951, 1952 and 1955 State Championships. He served on numerous committees, and chaired both the State Championship joust and the annual banquet committee of the MJTA. He was a lobbyist in 1962 before the Maryland Legislature for the bill that made Jousting the Official State Sport of Maryland. He has made promotional trips to other states, television appearances, given monetary awards and personal appearances on behalf of the Sport of Jousting. Though retired as a rider since 1968, he continued to maintain a strong interest in jousting, both on the local and national level. George was the first charter member officially inducted in the National Jousting Hall of Fame in 1979.

