

ROBERT DONALD FLOYD, SR.

KNIGHT OF CHAPEL VIEW

Robert Donald Floyd started riding in tournaments in 1951, at which time he became a member of the Amherst Tournament Association. He has been president of the club three times in addition to holding several other local offices. Mr. Floyd and his son, Preston, were the only representatives from Virginia for the organizational meeting of the National Jousting Association, held in Jessup, Maryland in 1968. At that time he was elected to the office of treasurer, an office he still holds. As a founder of the Virginia State Tournament Association, formed in the early '70s, he was elected vice-president for the first year and has held the office of president for several years.

"Don" Floyd has ridden at Natural Chimneys every year since 1951, with the exception of one, when he served as announcer. He has won the tournament four times, three consecutively, which retired the Challenge Trophy. As indicated by his collection of trophies and newspaper clippings, he has won approximately 25 first place "crowns", including two State Championships (1956 and 1962). He has not missed a tournament in Washington, D.C. for the Nationals since they began, and has placed in the Semi-Professional class once. Once as a special entertainment for the spectators, he rode for the fire rings. On an average, the state of Virginia runs from 12 to 15 tournaments each year, and "Don" Floyd has not missed over 6 tournaments total in his many years associated with jousting.

Besides actively riding in tournaments, Don has contributed immensely to the promotion and organization of jousting. In 1952, he was contacted by the Chamber of Commerce in Altavista, Virginia, to organize a tournament at an annual affair called Uncle Billy's Day, and since has put on a number of tournaments around the area. His greatest achievement in the promotional sense was his work with Sweet Briar College in Amherst County, where for 9 years they ran one of the best tournaments in Virginia. With his 8mm movie of tournaments held at Sweet Briar, Milboro Springs, and Natural Chimneys, he has traveled to many schools and club meetings presenting his film and demonstrating the sport.

Whenever there are questions to be answered about tournaments, one only needs to be referred to Don Floyd. Natural Chimneys credits him with having improved the tournaments at the park tremendously. As indicated in the above material, the survival of jousting in Virginia owes a great deal to Robert Donald Floyd, Sr. "Mr. Tournament" himself.

Robert Donald Floyd, Sr.
Knight of Chapel View
Madison Heights, VA
Inducted 1979

