MICHAEL LEE HOECK

Michael Lee Hoeck, Knight of Count Me In, was first introduced to the sport of jousting in 1966 while attending a tournament at Shady Knoll in Baltimore County, Md. He paid his dues and became a member because he said he just had to know what it was all about.

His insatiable desire for organization and leadership wone him a seat on the Board of Directors two short years later; the youngest member to ever hold this position. Because of his fairmindedness and his belief that the club comes first, won him his first term as President in 1971, so far serving up to five additional terms.

There were never off years for Mike. He has contributed much to promoting the sport of jousting. He has prepared an equipment manual with complete instructions for a jousting field, the arches and all equipment involved. He also made a movie which he continues to show to clubs and other organizations. His promotional activities now look to a week long jousting clinic in Harford County each summer.

Mike's jousting abilities, once he learned to stay on top of his horse, have taken him through the ranks from Class I to Class IV. He recalls his most favorite day of jousting during some very tough competition for the Amrein Memorial Trophy in 1982, which was ridden on a ring handicap. For the past two years he has reached the final cut in the State and National Championships and still awaits a victory there.

Well known by children throughout the land as Robin Hood, Mike continues to perform his special skit which he helped to develop strictly for the children attending the tournaments. If you close your eyes, you can visualize the chocolate 'gold coins' being thrown from his hands to those of the upreaching children, as he distributes the 'Rich Man's Sack of Gold'.

Mike possesses a strong and positive outlook for the sport of jousting and has given so much of himself as to truly deserve his place of honor in the National Hall of Fame.

