

## **Philip A. Clarke**

Knight of Little Red Wagon  
St. Mary's County, Maryland  
Inducted 1979  
Charter Member

Mr. Philip A. Clarke was born in 1920 and raised on a farm in St. Mary's County, Maryland. There he farmed and owned horses with his father. Being an avid jouster, his father taught him to joust at the age of fourteen. Because of the area's great love for jousting, Mr. Clarke never had to leave his home county in his earlier years, since churches and fire departments organized tournaments. Due to a decrease in farming and subsequently, horses, most local jousting was eliminated in the late forties.



Having jousting in his blood, Mr. Clarke contacted the Maryland Jousting Association in 1950 and was accepted as a member in the Professional Class. Since most tournaments were approximately two hundred miles from his home, he then bought a horse trailer (red, of course). Mr. Clarke is also a past member of the Western Maryland Jousting Club which formed in 1976 and thus rides in both clubs' events. In 1979 he attended twenty-four tournaments, covering approximately three hundred miles each weekend. Mr. Clarke met his wife of thirty-five years through jousting. She does not ride, but attends all the events he has participated in.

Mr. Clarke has held many offices in the MJTA. He served as Treasurer for the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association, Inc. for over twenty years. Mr. Clarke has also served on the finance, rules, non-rider awards, St. Mary's County Fair Joust and Hollywood Joust committees.

Mr. Clarke credits practice for his achievements of placing in most events for about thirty years. For most of his riding years he has represented St. Mary's County as its Champion. In 1968, he won the State of Maryland Champion and two years later he won the National Jousting Championship held in Washington, DC. Mr. Clarke considers his greatest triumph in jousting as his induction into this Jousting Hall of Fame and title as the first Hall of Fame Jousting Tournament Champion. He received a citation from the St. Mary's County Commissioners for his dedication and achievements in the state sport and for being the only person from the County to garner every title in any sport.

Mr. Clarke remains a great asset to the sport of jousting.