

Don Flatt

A Memorial



Written by Doug Greenfield, friend



Don was always quick to snap a photo, but not so many were taken of him. Here, he showed Lois Pienkos photos from a TRPC event.



All photos, except the one at left, by Don Flatt.

I met Don in the early 90's. I was a new member of the local flying club and a new resident of the area. Don welcomed me and introduced me to many people with the same interests. It quickly became obvious that he loved taking pictures of everyone and their planes. He would always come out and watch while I built my planes and document the building with film. At the same time, I watched him continue to take photos of everyone else and to also distribute the photos back to the people each week. The only thing he ever asked of the people was a smile.

As my own children were growing and getting more involved with the horses... Don would be there every week taking photos. Each week when Don would visit our home, he would have a new stack of photos to show us. The events could be anything from Rodeo, Speed events, Saddle clubs, Hunter Jumper, to Western and English pleasure.

I never really knew what he enjoyed more Taking the photographs or seeing the smile on everyone's faces as he handed over a stack of photos.

I know that Don preserved so many memories for my family when I was too busy to take pictures and I know that he did the same for so many others over the years. Don found out a long time ago that the camera was a great way to meet people and to get them to open up.



The buggy that Hannah is sitting in (above) was restored by Don.

It was given to my daughters by the family after he died.

Don was a welder. He also used his metal working talents to build things for people. It was not uncommon for Don to get piles of horseshoes and we would spend many nights cleaning them up in the shop. Some time later they would come back as bridle racks/stands, lamp holders or whatever Don had dreamed up. Then like the photos... He would pass them out to people asking nothing more than a smile and a thanks. It was always nice to see someone unselfishly do so many things for others. He always seemed to have a word of encouragement and a kind word...

Don Flatt will be missed.

