Mary Lib Miller

Mary Lib Miller—called by many the “First Lady” of harness racing—and the widow of Harness Racing Living Hall of Famer, Delvin G. Miller, passed away on September 1, 2009, at her home in Bay Hill, Orlando, Florida.

Mary Lib, widowed when her first husband, John McCrary, Jr., was killed in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944, married Delvin Miller in 1946, a harness horse trainer, driver, and friend of the McCrary’s. Mary Lib learned quickly about harness racing by studying the weekly trotting magazines.

In 1947, the Millers purchased Meadow Lands Farm in Meadow Lands, Pa. Formerly a dairy farm, the property was converted into a major breeding operation with the purchase of their stallion, Adios. In 1963, The Meadows Race Track was founded by the Millers, where they hosted the Adios Stake every year (now called the Delvin Miller Adios).

The Farm was sold in 1986, and the Millers moved to Meadowcroft near Avella, Pa. In the 1960s, the Millers developed Meadowcroft Village as a museum of 19th-century rural life. They saved local structures including a one-room schoolhouse and other period buildings and horse drawn carriages, providing educational experiences for thousands of Western Pennsylvanian children and their families.

The Miller Museum at the site chronicles Delvin Miller’s family history and his dynamic eight-decade career in harness racing.

In 2000, the Millers turned over Meadowcroft Museum and its internationally renowned Rockshelter to the History Center. Since that time, and with Mary Lib’s continued interest and support, the History Center has made many improvements. The museum’s staff has significantly expanded its educational programs, and in 2008, the new, award-winning enclosure was opened at the Meadowcroft Rockshelter under the direction of David Scofield. The Rockshelter is a National Historic Landmark and the oldest site of human use in North America dating back 16,000 years.

Always mindful of its significance and potential, Mary Lib Miller was one of Meadowcroft’s most steadfast supporters. She played an integral role in the direction of Meadowcroft throughout its 40-year history.

Mary Lib and Delvin Miller included Meadowcroft in their estate plan. Today, Meadowcroft and its continuing commitment to education and the environment are in many ways a tribute to Mary Lib’s spirit and her legacy of involvement and care.

For more information on how you can make a planned gift to the History Center, contact Audrey Brouman, fundraising counsel, at (412) 454-6404.

Portions of this were taken from the tribute to Mary Lib Miller published by Meadows Racetrack & Casino.