

RICHARD BINGHAM

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Whether on four hooves or eight wheels, Richard "Dick" Bingham travels in style. When he is not operating a successful bus company, Bingham is out enjoying his horses.

In 1956, Bingham married his high school sweetheart, Karen Davidsmeyer. In 1961, the couple moved to Chicago and joined the Davidsmeyer Bus Company, which began when Karen's mom purchased a 1938 Chevrolet to transport children to and from school.

From simple beginnings, the Davidsmeyer Bus Company now provides bus service for Chicago-area school districts. The company also owns Mid-America Charter Lines in Illinois, Central West of Texas and Colorado Charter Line in Colorado. The Bingham's two sons, Willy and Rob, are involved with the bus company.

After they purchased property to make more room for the bus company, the Bingham's realized they had enough room to build a barn. In 1962, they bought their first American Quarter Horse, a weanling halter colt.

The Bingham's involvement in the industry grew to include achievements in the show arena, a successful breeding operation and a larger farm near Harvard, Illinois.

Bingham became involved with the Illinois Quarter Horse Association and AQHA.

He became an AQHA Director in 1981 and served on the Youth Activities Committee and the Convention subcommittee. He chaired the Youth Activities Committee for two years before he became a member of the Executive Committee in 1990.

Today, the Bingham's continue their involvement with AQHA and the horse industry. Their daughter, Kim, operates their breeding operation and horse farm.

The Bingham farm is home to more than 160 horses, including 1995 AQHA Amateur World Champion Aged Stallion Recognized. Another successful horse to grace the Bingham farm is I Do Impress, who has sired reserve world champions and a number of futurity winners.

The Bingham's keep up their involvement with AQHYA by sponsoring the aged mares class and speech contests at the AQHYA World Championship Show.