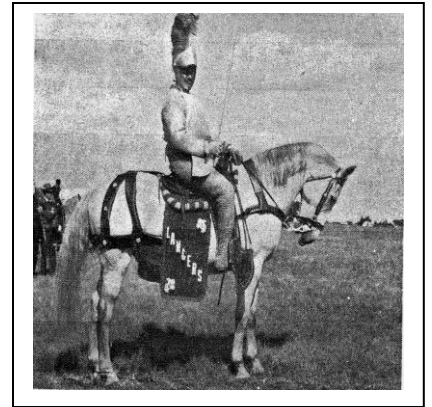


DON FLOYD

Don Floyd, an Amherst County native who worked for the railroad in Monroe, had an early interest in sports and promoted baseball by assembling teams to play others from the area. One such team, before the days of Little League and Dixie Youth, won a state championship.

At age 45, after an injury necessitated early retirement, Floyd became involved in riding the jousting tournament circuit, an interest that ultimately led to his winning two state championships, as well as a national tournament in Washington DC. Participation in jousting enabled him to take a leading role as co-founder of the Virginia State Tournament Association, which was formed in the early 1970s.



For almost a decade, Sweet Briar College was the site of a state jousting tournament, with Floyd's leadership. This event was he premier jousting event in Virginia, regularly attracting several thousand spectators from across the Commonwealth.

In addition to being a founder of the National Jousting Hall of Fame, he was also inducted as a charter member, "Knight of Chapel View", and now has been followed by more than 30 other individuals from Amherst County, including his son, Preston.

Don Floyd's most enduring image to most Amherst County citizens was as the "Amherst Lancer" mascot, an imposing figure comparable only to those on the collegiate level. In the world of banners and pompoms, Amherst County could boast a full-fledged costumed mascot of lancer on his steed. His appearance helped create the "big game" atmosphere for Amherst's growing success on the football field, as he and "Billy the Grey" led the team onto the field over a period of 15 years.

An especially memorable moment occurred for Floyd and Billy the Grey when they made an unanticipated appearance to a packed house for a pep rally before an important basketball game. The flooring in the new gym had been advertised as being indestructible and someone incubated the idea to prove it. "The Amherst Lancer" majestically rode into the gym leading the team, an event that apparently caused the principal's mouth to drop in astonishment, but, after a moment's thought, he enthusiastically joined in cheering with the rest of the crowd.

Robert Don Floyd, Sr. – February 20, 1906 - November 3, 2003

Career Highlights

- Coach, youth baseball state championship, late 1940s
- Co-founder, Virginia Tournament Association, president two years
- Two state jousting championships
- National jousting championship, Washington DC
- Organized and hosted with SBC the Virginia State Tournament
- Helped in establishing Jousting Hall of Fame in Natural Chimneys Regional Park in Mt. Solon, VA
- Charter inductee into National Jousting Hall of Fame
- "Amherst Lancer" mascot, with "Billy the Grey", 15 years