

STORIES FROM DAMAR FARMS

1. Home in Ringgold: In the early seventies, David hired a contractor to frame in the house then David finished it. He was a lover of fine woods as evidenced by the 19 raised panel doors in the home. Over the years, David continually did building projects in the home: Including replacing carpet with hard wood flooring; putting log siding in the garage to give the effect of a cabin room; replacing sliding doors with patio doors; and finishing rooms and closets in the basement.

Horse Barn in Ringgold: David bred and showed American Saddlebred Horses. In one of his trips to Kentucky, he saw a horse barn that he liked: David came home, drew out the plan and built the 8,000 square foot barn. The upstairs is designed for living space to provide accommodations for buyers coming to look at his horses. There is a living quarter in the upstairs and all the furniture except the bed are built in. There is room to put in 3 more living quarters (apartments). Another unique feature of the barn is that the stables are in the middle so David could ride his horses around the stables. There is a large horse shower where David's champion horses were groomed for shows. The dapple gray stallion would lift his paws into the air as if to show he was in control!

Personal Information: David retired from Norfolk Southern Railway. After retirement, he managed the farms in Ringgold

and West Armuchee. David was known throughout the Southeast for his Registered Santa Gertrudis Cattle, the only breed of cattle bred in the United States. He was highly recognized for his knowledge and skills in raising cattle. David also designed and built a second horse barn at the farm in West Armuchee.

Margaret was Nursing Director and then Program Director for the Northwest Georgia Public Health District that covers 10 counties. She loves gardening as you can see by the trails, unique shrubs, trees, and flowers in the gardens.

For years, David and Margaret made trips to a nursery near Mont Eagle Mountain to purchase trees and shrubs including many magnolias. From the Georgia Forestry Commission, they obtained trees including black walnut, lob lolly pine, white pine and cedars. Today, they represent one of the best tree collections in Georgia. There is also a lot of old original trees like oak, hickory, and maple that were on the property when purchased in the seventies.