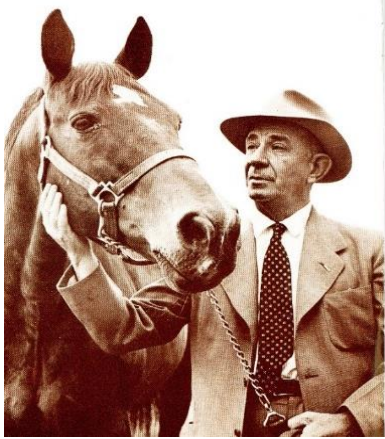


## Lawrence B. Sheppard Memorial Fund



Lawrence Baker Sheppard was born on December 13, 1897 in Baltimore, Maryland, son of Mr. & Mrs. Harper D. Sheppard, the founder of the Hanover Shoe Company, a manufacturer and retailer of quality leather shoes. In the early 1900's, Harper Sheppard and his partner Clinton N. Myers founded Hanover Shoe Stables, and Lawrence B. Sheppard, then in his twenties and a junior partner in the Hanover Shoe Company, supplied the drive and vision to transform the Hanover Shoe Stables into Hanover Shoe Farms, spreading across some 600 acres of rich and rolling Southeastern Pennsylvania farmland. This transformation began in 1922 when Sheppard began replacing the modest, mediocre stock with some of the finest racehorses of the era. But in 1926, Lawrence Sheppard boldly bought a 69-horse package from the estate of A.B. Coxe, for \$150,000 (\$2,065,843 in 2018 dollars) and Hanover truly burst upon the national scene. According to *The Kentucky Harness Horse*, written by Standardbred historian Ken McCarr, it was "the start of one of the largest and most prominent harness horse nurseries in the world." For the next 42 years, young Sheppard was determined to keep Hanover as "The greatest name in harness racing." He got no argument from the woman he married, a San Antonio belle named Charlotte Cassin Newton, who shared his great love of horses.

Elected into the Living Hall of Fame in 1967, Lawrence Sheppard was president of the United States Trotting Association (USTA) from 1950 to 1958. He was a founder of The Hall of Fame of the Trotter now known as the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame. Among the honor roll of the earlier Hanover stallions were Dillon Axworthy, Guy McKinney, Calumet Chuck, Peter the Brewer, Mr. McElwyn, Spencer Scott, Dean Hanover (Sheppard's personal favorite pictured above), Billy Direct, His Excellency, Bill Gallon, Sandy Flash, Hoot Mon, Titan Hanover and Adios. Since the USTA began compiling breeder's statistics, Hanover Shoe Farms has led the annual money-earnings totals every year. The famous Pennsylvania nursery has been a world class breeding establishment for nearly three-quarters of a century. Hanover sires have also produced a multitude of winners of harness racing's most prestigious events such as the Hambletonian, Kentucky Futurity, Little Brown Jug and Breeders Crown.

On February 26, 1968, Lawrence Baker Sheppard died at age 70. Sheppard, probably the single most important figure in the history of harness racing, left a legacy of excellence and philanthropy to be remembered and celebrated for years to come.

Mr. Sheppard created the Lawrence B. Sheppard Foundation in 1948 and has generously provided scholarships for Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week (PFEW) since 2015. In 2018 the Foundation dissolved and made one final donation to PFEW to create the Lawrence B. Sheppard Foundation Fund. Our Foundation is grateful for Lawrence's generosity over his lifetime and we are proud to continue his legacy of investing in Pennsylvania.