



## Caroline Burgeson

December 31, 1969 - February 24, 2013

Obituary of Caroline Burgeson Caroline Lee Bergeson, owner of The Paddock Room Galleries in Ocala, Florida passed on peacefully at her home on Sunday evening February 24th, 2013. Among her many accomplishments Caroline spoke several languages, sang The Lord's Prayer for President FDR at her high school graduation (receiving a special comment from the President on her performance) and graduated with high honors from Hunter College in New York City. Caroline's mother was an accomplished opera singer giving Caroline a life long love of the opera. Caroline, herself, had a beautiful voice, and although she declined, she was invited to sing at the Metropolitan Opera House in NYC. Caroline was predeceased in 1991 by her beloved husband Edward Burgeson. When they met Ed was newly hired as the Vice President of Advertising and Director of Retail Division and Caroline was the Librarian in the Bureau of Advertising of the American Newspaper Publishers Association. Caroline had come to the firm from an illustrious retail background working at New York City's Sak's 5th Avenue and Burgdorf's. They were married on September 4, 1954 in the Cleveland Park Congregational Church in Washington D.C., making their home on Tudor City Place in New York City before moving to a two hundred and fifty year old colonial. The home, which resembled a small version of Mt. Vernon, was located on fifty four acres in nearby Flemington, New Jersey. With their parakeet, Pretty Boy and their Springer Spaniel and along with her career as a Latin teacher at Flemington High School and Ed's Vice Presidency, the couple became gentleman

farmers, raising their own vegetables and selling hay to local land owners. The couple moved to Marion County at the end of the 1960s and after noting the lack of stores catering to decorative items opened a 500 square-foot store on Silver Springs Blvd. They quickly discovered that Ocala was serious about horses and tentatively stocked a small collection of horse related items. When all items sold within the first part of the first day, they had discovered their niche and fell in love with the equine industry. The wonderful landmark store was moved to its final location at 226 E Silver Springs Blvd in 1978 and quickly grew to nearly 4,500 square feet, stocking items specific to equine activities, including fox hunting, eventing, driving, polo and horse racing. Along with loyal farm owners and residents of Ocala and the surrounding area the business grew to include buyers from around the country and the world, some of whom would visit the store while in town to purchase horses at the Ocala Breeder's Sale auction or participate in the winter Hits (Horses in the Sun) competition. Since Ed's passing The Paddock Room Galleries had been Caroline's passion. She was dedicated to her clientele and proud of her loyalty to her customers. Caroline was both owner and operator of her unique store right up until the end of 2012 when she decided to close the store and semi-retire. Her store lives on via her website as her legacy to the horse community and equine industry that she loved so well. She will be dearly missed by many. To share your story of Caroline please add comments here in her Guestbook. To read more about Caroline please visit <http://www.thepaddockroom.com/profile.html> and the lower right hand area of [www.paddockroom.com](http://www.paddockroom.com). To help her Facebook fans get to know her better please add your memories of Caroline on her store Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/thepaddockroomgalleries](http://www.facebook.com/thepaddockroomgalleries).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Caroline Burgeson*

June 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I first met Caroline in her wonderful Paddock Room as I commuted from Deland to Gainesville. She was one of the reasons we chose to move to Ocala in 1999. we have so many memories! Every piece in our home has its own story from her store and a memory of every visit. We already miss her dearly but know she is now at peace. Thank you, Caroline, for your love and friendship. Love, Bob and Christy*

**Bob & Christy Carlson** - March 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sorry to read of Miss Caroline's passing in today's paper. Only met her once....at her wonderful store. She seemed quite a lady. I'm sure many, many folks will miss her. ...from the Facebook page.*

**Bobbie March** - March 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *MY AUNT CAROLINE THE MOST WONDERFUL AUNT IN THE WORLD, SHE WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR ME. SHE COULD HAVE SUNG AT THE MET OPERA IN NEW YORK, BUT SHE CHOOSE TO TEACH LATIN, THEN HER AND MY UNCLE DECIEDED TO MOVE TO OCALA, AND THE REST IS HISTORY. SHE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED, NOW HER AND MY UNCLE ARE TOGETHER. YOUR LOVING NIECE HELEN*

**HELEN NEUMANN** - March 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Visitng Caroline at her shop was always a special treat. Her enthusiasm was contagious and she made us feel so special.....like she had just been hoping we'd stop by. What a gift!

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**Cathy and Dick Hancock** - March 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ Caroline, what a lady! The Paddock Room, what a shop! Truly the nicest and best equine gift place ever. I worked there for the past seven years. I was surrounded by beautiful things and met so many wonderful people. Every day was an adventure, and as Caroline would say, "You never know who is going to come through that door." Rest in peace.

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**Helen Strader** - March 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ My first purchase from The Paddock Room in 1978 was a set of six drinking glasses with my Stanek Stables racing silks on them. Other purchases throughout the years included horse statues, bronzes, paintings, prints, etc. All quality purchases which I still have even after all these years!

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**Donald Stanek** - March 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ I met caroline when I first saw her shop in 1989. She became a good friend of ours and we will miss her greatly. She had the nicest horse shop I have ever seen and was so far ahead to see that it was needed in ocala. I hope everyone still shops and visits her website. I will miss her so much

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**helen hein** - March 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Only knew dear Caroline from church when we moved here 8 years ago. Always a beautiful smile and an inspiration to everyone! She will be greatly missed but always remembered with love!

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**Donna F. Summerhays** - February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ Upon my arrival to Ocala a few years years ago, an introdction to Carline Burgeson warmed my heart. What a loving, gracious lady, full of joy and enthusiam! In a very short period of time, we became friends and shared several lunches togehter. She even allowed me to tape some of her life, which is a "love story" in itself. She has left us with many fond memories, now going on to a better "place"

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**Ginny Morlock** - February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ My heart is heavy. Caroline was a special light in the world of equine art. I met her and her husband many many years ago and had a very enjoyable relationship with her for a long time. Caroline was one of a kind and she will leave a hole in our industry. Many artists owe a lot to her and The Paddock Room was a highlight for many visitors to Ocala. This is truly the passing of a Ocala legend. She so loved to meet and serve the legendary horsemen of Ocala. ...from email.

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**Lisa Perry** - February 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ She was a real lady.

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**Linda Sain** - February 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ She will be missed, such a great asset to the horse industry. ...from the Facebook page.

Jill Monroe - February 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ She was a joy to talk to. I was charmed to photograph her and the exquisite Paddock Room Gallery few years ago. ...from the Facebook page.

Danette Philpot - February 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ I am so sorry for your Loss. She will live on in my heart. I loved her dearly. ...from the Facebook page.

Linda Lear - Learway Originals - February 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ Her beautiful and creative spirit will be missed.

Peter Rivera - February 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Caroline touched my heart and life with her passion for creating the most incredible business, "The Paddock Room Gallery". She promoted my exclusive hand painted boutique items and fine art over the years with a passion that gave me confidence to excel. I will never forget her voice and enthusiasm....she was a very special person in my life! Lila Blakeslee

Lila Blakeslee - February 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VW

“ I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to know Caroline. She so enjoyed visiting with her customers and vendors, many of whom became her very good friends. People would often ask Caroline her age. She would answer a completely unrelated question as though she had heard them differently and by the time she was finished they would forget they still did not know her age. I am a better person for having known Caroline and miss her greatly.

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**Virginia Wells** - February 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DI

“ Caroline was one in a million. A woman of superb taste and style. Her impartial relationships with her equine customers enabled her to cater to the most discriminating of horse collectors. My relationship with her was years ago when I was honored by her consideration to merchandise the Florida Carriage Museum for world famous traditional driving expert, Ms. Gloria Austin. Caroline was always generous, divinely amazing and a gracious woman. I will always treasure her memory. Daniel Skidmore

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**Daniel E. Skidmore III** - February 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM