

James Morrison

Herd: Elm Hills - Nubians, French Alpines, and briefly, Saanens

Location: Webster Groves, Missouri (suburb of St. Louis)

ADGA Director: 1967-1978; Director Emeritus

ADGA Committee Work:

Tattoo Committee – Chair, 1969-1974 (established policy that all ADGA registered or recorded goats must have a unique tattoo).

Public Relations Committee – Chair, 1973-1974

Registration Committee – 1975

Membership & Public Relations – 1975

Membership Information - 1976

James Morrison – from an interview with Daniel Considine, January 2023, recorded by Doug Thompson

“Jim Morrison was just a good guy. He was everybody’s friend. He was to me an ambassador to ADGA. He was encouraging to people. He was on the Board for a bit. He was Director Emeritus for a bit...he was on the Board when I came in, but I knew him from the Illinois State Fair. That’s where he was showing and where we showed and he went to a lot of conventions with me. I don’t know how many for sure but maybe 20. He would travel with me or meet me there and we’d room together. He was at Illinois State Fair showing his Nubians for the 1950’s and into the 1960’s and he went to the Missouri State Fair. When he had something really good *<a good show goat>*, I would take it to the National Show. He had purchased a doe at the Spotlight Sale by the name of Springhaven Sun Suey, a Nubian, a really good doe. I hauled her to a couple of National Shows. I showed her in Albuquerque when it was a National Show.”

<Doug Thompson: When did you first meet him?>

“It had to be in the early 50’s at the Illinois State Fair and it used to be that any of these State fairs, the Illinois State Fair, the Wisconsin State Fair, any of them, basically that you stayed the whole week. You got to know people. You had time. Jim didn’t show too many goats. He didn’t win too many times. He did a little bit of winning but he’d walk around the horse barns, the cattle barns, everywhere he talked to people. He was that kind of guy. You could just talk to him. He was friends with the Busch’s, the *<Budweiser>* beer people. He used to visit them down there in St. Louis. He got to know them at the Illinois State Fair, but he would visit them in Missouri. He was a cool guy.”

“He used to show his goats, hauling them in a U-Haul trailer, in an enclosed U-Haul trailer. And he’d put a 2’ x 4’ to hold the door open just a crack to get a little bit of air, but that’s how he hauled them, behind a jeep. Yeah, he would rent it, then hose it out *<afterward>*. He had a really small place. I mean really small. Webster Groves is a suburb. The street was Elm and the town was Webster Groves. I went back there last year to find his place and I found it. I think it was torn down, but I’m sure I found the right place. I used to go there a lot. Any time I went west, I’d go there. If I came back from a trip for meat kids, I stop there for a bit. I’d stop for a meal.”

“I’d park my trailer on the street with goats screaming and carrying on. Nobody bothered me there though. They all knew Jim. He sold raw milk at the farm. It wasn’t really legal in Missouri, but the City didn’t bother him. They left him alone. We’re talking...he knew how to charge. It was \$7.00 a quart. That was good milk, really good milk. He had mostly Nubians, he had a couple of Alpines at one point, but his goats were basically mostly Nubians. He would make it *<the milk>* nice and clean. He would wash the

udder well. He did a really nice job disinfecting with Chlorox and he would put it in baths, in ice-water baths. He took really good care of it and people would come and pay his price for Nubian milk.”

Ellen Considine: Do I remember right? He came from a big family. He put his siblings through college.

“That’s right. He came from a really big family. His father was a preacher, a Methodist preacher. He was the oldest and he did go to work right away. All of his siblings, and I think there we 10 in the family, every other one got a college degree except him, yeah. His sisters were teachers, and that was amazing that they were teachers. It was a family that did well, and you know, not with a lot of resources.”

Doug Thompson: When did he pass away?

“I think 1987. I believe that’s right. I’m not positive here. I flew down there, of course, for the funeral. He had been going to conventions with me for a number of years, but he did not go for his last two years. He didn’t feel like going. There had been an incident there at the back door of his house where he kept his goats, a kind of chicken yard, but somebody hit him over the head and stole his milk money. It really set him back, as far as psychologically because everybody liked Jim and he trusted everybody. The fact that somebody would come right there and do that to him was hard to take. He told me he thought it was one of the guys that was actually working for him too, a guy named Butch. Butch had done that. He didn’t want to go out after that. He didn’t want to go with me.”

“You’ll see pictures of him down at Spindale. There are photobooks from conventions, remember that? We had a person from New York that would take pictures the whole week. They’d present an album, officially present it to the Board the next year. Ask for that. They’re there. Each one probably has 150 pictures in it. You’ll find his pictures all through that, smiling.”

“I have on the wall in my bedroom, his plaque from ADGA. It was, **Friend of ADGA - James Morrison, <at a time when>** we didn’t have all the awards we have now. He got that and that was pretty cool. He was always encouraging to me, that I could do something in ADGA. He pushed me.”