The couple trained their own horses and their hobby soon became a business, although both also maintained other full-time jobs. Her career produced many talented riders, especially in equitation (both western and English) and she trained about every breed of horse brought to them. She showed a champion and reserve champion at the Iowa Horse Show Association and showed the Grand Champion mare at the 1977 American Royal Appaloosa Show.

She was an announcer at open shows and breed association shows, including the Iowa Buckskin Association, the Iowa Quarter Horse Association and Midwest Appaloosa Association. She judged open and 4-H shows, rodeo queen contests in central and southern Iowa, and the Iowa State Fair Cowgirl Queen Contest. She retired from teaching and announcing in 2004, at the age of 82.

She held offices in the Newton and Grinnell Saddle Clubs and was secretary and news correspondent for the 4th District Iowa Quarter Horse Association. She was a member of the Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Club, the Appaloosa Horse Association, the Iowa Quarter Horse Association, the Arabian Horse Association, the Hackney Pony Association, the Draft Pony Association, and the Mid-Iowa Driving Association. She was a lifetime member of the American Quarter Horse Association and the Grinnell Saddle Club.

Survivors include one step-daughter, Linda Bell of Ankeny; one sister, Ellen Leer of North English; and several nieces, nephews, and foster children. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband in 1985; one brother, Robert Maxwell; and one sister, Hazel Brau.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Terry Bowman Memorial Fund.