

15TH ANNUAL

Montana Pro Rodeo
Hall and Wall of Fame

ART BY
SAM IDDINGS

Saturday, January 25th, 2020

Billings Hotel & Convention Center • Billings, MT
406.256.6515 • www.montanaprorodeo.org



Montana Pro Rodeo
Hall and Wall of Fame

P.O. Box 930 • Billings, MT 59103

Scholarship Fundraising Banquet & Gathering

Schedule of Events

Saturday, January 25, 2020

- 2:00** Registration Opens – Billings Hotel and Convention Center
- 2:00 – 5:00** The Big Visit – Come mingle with friends and neighbors prior to the Evening's Festivities
- 5:00PM** Welcome by Emcee Brent Jordan
- Invocation
- National Anthem
- Recognition of Special Guests and Rodeo Celebrities
- Sit-down Banquet: New Menu - 10 oz Rib Steak with all the extras
- Heads or Tails – A fun opportunity to win a replica bronze of the 18' Dan Mortensen statue located at MetraPark Arena
- Live Auction featuring World Champion Livestock Auctioneer Ty Thompson

AWARD PRESENTATIONS:

Lady of the West
Lifetime Achievement Award
Great Montana College
Great Montana Rodeo
Great Montana Rodeo Families
Great Montana Ranches
Western Heritage Awards
Legends

Silent Auction Close TBA

30 Minute intermission

Live Music provided by
Broken Reins

featuring Clark Fletcher, Randy Rhoads,
Joe Sullivan and Jeff Taylor



*Many fine items will be auctioned live.
See page 27 for details*

Monument Rededication

Saturday, January 25, 2020 • 1:00 pm

WHERE: First Interstate Arena Entrance Area at MetraPark, Billings, Montana

You are invited to join in the re-dedication of the Brand Block Wall, the Wall of Fame and the Mortensen Bronze as we affirm our commitment to honoring Montana professional cowboys and cowgirls who exemplify our Montana western heritage and to support our future rodeo participants and western values.



Cover artwork:

Sam Iddings

A native of Sheridan, Wyoming, Sam Iddings grew up in a rodeo and ranching family. With over 25 years of painting experience, his work can be found in collections all across the United States.

He is known for painting cowboys and Native Americans of the late 1800 and early 1900 eras. One collector described his work as "capturing the Old West with the patina of a bygone era."



Sam's influence includes CM Russell, EW Gollings, and Frank Tenny Johnson. He is represented by the West Lives On Gallery in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and the Eric Thorsen Gallery in Bigfork, Montana. Sam is the winner of The Wyoming

Governor's Award, 1982, and is a member of the Western Heritage Artists Association and SAGE.

For more information about Sam's art, call 307/461-0319, or sheridanpainter@yahoo.com

Welcome

Welcome to the 15th Annual Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame Banquet

Warmest Western Greetings and Welcome to the 2020 Cowboy and Cowgirl Gathering Banquet!

This is our 15th Annual Fundraising Banquet. As many of you know, the purpose of the Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame is a nonprofit Montana 501(c) (3) corporation dedicated to honoring Montana professional rodeo cowboys and cowgirls who exemplify our Montana western heritage through maintenance of a monument site located near the entrance of the First Interstate Arena at MetraPark in Billings, Montana. And, provide a scholarship program to assist Montana high school rodeo students further their education and pursue their interest in rodeo at the college level.

Since 2006, scholarships have been provided to over 160 students totaling over \$500,000. Most awards are a \$3,000 sum dispersed over the first two years of college. The student recipients are selected by the Montana High School Rodeo Association members, based on scholastic ability, community involvement, good strength

of character and need.

The idea for this organization began with Lyle Graves and some of his friends twenty years ago, and has been enthusiastically continued solely by volunteers since then. You are welcome to join the group's meetings on the first Monday of the month.

We are honoring an outstanding group of western friends and neighbors at the 2020 Banquet. We invite you to join us for a day of gathering, promoting our future, honoring our heritage and preserving our western traditions.

We hope you can join us at our new location: THE BILLINGS HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER, 1223 MULLOWNEY LANE, Billings, Montana.

Happy trails

Bill Williams
President

Lifetime Achievement Award

For a lifelong commitment to the western way of life

Ron Reed

Ronald Melvin Reed was a lifelong resident of Montana, born in Miles City on April 29, 1937, moved with his parents Melvin and Marcella McFarland Reed to Billings when he was two, where he spent the rest of his life. He married Judy Redding in 1961 and they had 2 children, Shawn B. and Kellie K. Reed. He passed away on January 2, 2019.



From his early years until his death he was involved with livestock and cowboys. He and his brother Rudy would ride their ponies from daylight to dusk in the open fields near the fairgrounds. They broke a bunch of Shetland ponies for Peter Yegen. At every opportunity he would hang around with his Dad at the auction yards. Later on, he rode a few bucking horses and got interested in horse racing.

Ron's love for horse racing began back in the early 60's when he helped train horses at the Beaumont Race Track in Belgrade. For over 50 years he was involved with the racing industry in many capacities – from track positions throughout Montana, to multiple official's positions for the Montana Board of Horse Racing, the last one was as a State Steward supervising all racing officials and enforcing the rules of racing.

In May 1962 Ron started his 30-year career with the State of Montana - Board of Livestock as a Brand Inspector then sworn Investigator. As District Inspector for the Dept of Livestock, he worked five counties and two auction

markets involving large range operations to small cattle farms, feedlots to reservations. As District Investigator he worked three counties investigating criminal activity in the livestock industry.

During his working years and after retirement, Ron kept busy with many activities. He worked on the filming of the movie Little Big Man as a horse bookkeeper and wrangler. He volunteered his time with Little Britches Rodeo, wagon trains, Billings Chamber of Commerce and Montana Stockgrowers. He was a big booster for Billings and Montana as a Blue Blazer for the Chamber and drove his team and stage coach in the Western Days Parade, transported dignitaries from the airport and at Metra, took the team and coach to parades in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and Sacramento, CA. Ron cleaned and repaired saddles at Bill's Custom Saddle Shop for many years and enjoyed the comradery with the staff, customers and friends who would drop in for a visit.

Ron was a founding member of Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame along with other rodeo friends. He shared the vision of the Hall of Fame, and understood Montana had a rich heritage of rodeo champions, and wanted to honor their contribution to the sport of rodeo. The Founders of the Hall of Fame also realized the rodeo youth were extremely important to the future of the sport, so they created a scholarship program for the boys and girls of Montana high school rodeo. Ron's efforts in this endeavor, his enthusiasm, hard work, passion and donation of his time and wealth to the Hall of Fame has resulted in \$500,000 of scholarship awards.

Ron was a generous guy, always thinking about the needs of others ahead of himself.

Legends



Former/current PRCA individuals that left their mark on professional rodeo

Larry Peabody

- Born October 23rd, 1957 in Hardin, Montana
- Grew up in Bozeman, Montana
- Graduated from Bozeman High School in 1976
- Attended Sheridan College (Rodeo)
- Attended Dawson Community College (Rodeo)
- 1981 College National Finals Bareback Champion
- Dawson Community College Team Champions 1981
- NFR Qualifier 5 Times (1981-1985)
- 1984 PRCA World Champion
- 1983 NFR Average Champion
- 1981 Highest Point Ride 89 Points (held this for some time)
- 6 NFR Round Wins
- 1981 9th World Standings
- 1982 4th World Standings
- 1983 3rd World Standings
- 1984 1st World Standings
- 1985 8th World Standings
- Montana Circuit Bareback Champion (1980, 1981, 1982, 1984)

- Montana Circuit All-Around Champion (1982)
- Cheyenne Frontier Days 1983
- San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo
- Dallas (State Fair of Texas Rodeo)
- Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Prescott Frontier Days
- Ellensburg Rodeo
- Cloverdale Rodeo
- Phillipsburg, Kansas
- North Platte, Nebraska
- St. Paul, Minnesota
- Calgary Stampede
- Ponoka Stampede
- Edmonton Rodeo
- Kalispell (Northwest Montana Fair and Rodeo)
- Great Falls (Montana State Fair)
- Billings NILE

Ryan Mapston

My parents, Wes and Carol Sue Mapston raised my brother Gray, and sisters Amber and Reagan on a cattle ranch outside of Arlee Montana. My dad started me riding broncs in high school where I qualified for the high school national finals. I was recruited to wrestle for the MSU Bobcats, and continued riding broncs there. I transferred to Dillon where I wrestled and rode broncs qualifying for the college national national finals rodeo.



Rod Hay and I traveled together on our PRCA permits. 1990 was my rookie year and I qualified for my first NFR in 1996. In 1997 I finished 2nd in the world standings and in 2000 I won the average at the NFR. Through the years I won 3 Montana circuit titles and won many of the best rodeos in the country including, Houston TX, Cow Palace in San Francisco, Greeley Co, Pendleton Or, Caldwell Id, Cloverdale B.C., Nampa ID, Salt Lake City UT, Tucson AZ, Santa Maria CA and others. Justen Washburn from New Mexico traveled with me thru my career. Steve Dollarhide from Arizona joined us as well as Mike Outhier from TX. The four of us stayed together most of my career. In my later years Jess Martin, Shawn Stroh, and Shane Moran travelled with me. I was fortunate enough to set the arena record at Cheyenne WY, San Antonio TX, and Livingston MT.

My wife Darcy traveled with me some of the time, and she and I Qualified for the winter tour finals in Las Vegas at the MGM grand as the first married couple to do so. I retired in 2008 after qualifying for the NFR 10 times. We now have a cattle ranch in the Highwood Mountains near Belt MT. Darcy still trains and runs barrel horses and our kids are competing in JH and HS rodeos. God has blessed me with some great friends and my family, and I am very thankful.



Legends

Former/current PRCA individuals that left their mark on professional rodeo

Deb Greenough

Ever-smiling, Montana bred Deb Greenough made a solid name for himself among rodeo fans of the 1990's, and his record remains tough to beat to this day. The champion bareback rider received his PRCA card in 1986 and promptly put it to good use, qualifying for 13 consecutive NFR appearances from 1988 to the year 2000. He won the average in 1992 and the world title in 1993.



Deb experienced, in his words, "a life altering injury" before winning the 1992 average. Life altering to the positive? Perhaps on some level, considering that Deb never finished lower than 5th in the world standings after the injury. He had 9 consecutive top 5 finishes and was 2nd in the standings 5 times.

In addition to his impressive NFR finishes, Deb was Montana's Pro Circuit Bareback Champ 7 times (1991, and 1993-1999) and the Dodge National Circuit Finals Champ in 1995, 1996 and 1999.

One of the friendliest cowboys in rodeo, Deb is known for his winning smile and unwavering humility. Among his favorite moments in his illustrious rodeo career was being named "Coors Fans Favorite Cowboy" in 1992. An honor well deserved, to be sure.

Looking back, the only life a young Deb Greenough dreamed of was that of rodeo cowboy. He attended Northwest College in Powell, WY on a scholarship and trained under the legendary Ike Sanky. With a true caring



for the sport of rodeo, Deb honed his skills watching like-minded rodeo greats like Brad Gjermondson, Wayne Herman, Marvin Garrett and Chuck Logue.

On retiring from rodeo in 2001, Greenough settled in Billings and turned his attention more fully to family, continuing in his words "to learn and grow...and to raise great kids". His four children, three boys and one girl, are all ranched raised with rodeo aspirations of their own.

Josh Reynolds

The following are some of the accomplishments of Josh Reynolds:

Bucking Horse Sale Champion 1997-1998; NRA Rookie of the Year 1995; NRA Champion 1996, 1997, 1998; 2005 National Finals Rodeo Qualifier; Two-time Ram National Finals Qualifier; Two-time New Year's Eve Bucking Ball Champion 2008-2009 Gillette, WY; Two-time Johnny Morris Memorial Champion; Two-Time All American Finals Qualifier; Six-time Chase Hawks Rodeo; Champion of World Class Bucking Horse Assoc. 2013; 2013 Home on the Range Champions Ride, Sentinel Butte, ND; 2015 Miles City Match Bronc Riding Champion; 17-time Montana Circuit Finals Rodeo Qualifier; Many times Jordan Match Bronc Riding Champion; PRCA Gold Card Member 1998-2018 (20 Years).



Legends

Former/current PRCA individuals that left their mark on professional rodeo

Carolynn Vieter

Front porch sittin' will have to wait at the Rocking Chair Ranch, in Philipsburg, Montana, because Carolynn and her husband Willy Vieter are far too busy in the rodeo world to occupy rocking chairs. Carolynn, former Miss Rodeo America 1966, has spent a lifetime promoting and competing in professional rodeo as well as promoting the western lifestyle. Carolynn spends many hours in the saddle each week exercising and training on three horses, (her competition horse, back-up horse and prospect mare) and often stays at the barn until after dark. With a rodeo career spanning over 6 decades, Carolynn still has a passion for running barrels and every Tuesday night through the summer season you can find her sharing that passion at the Ranch at Rock Creek, just 20 minutes across the mountain from her home. "Riding in the exhibition rodeos and sharing rodeo with people that know nothing about it has been one of the most rewarding things I've done in the promotion of the sport and the western lifestyle." The rodeos are produced at the luxury dude ranch to share the experience of the wild west and a close-up view of rodeo with guests from all over the world, including social hours so guests can interact with the cowboys and cowgirls competing. Willy and Carolynn began working with the Ranch at Rock River three years ago, and the rodeos, produced with the help of former PRCA stock contractor Joe DeMers, offer a full slate of rodeo events to wow the crowds. Willy flags timed events and competes as a team roper in the rodeos. Barrel racing is one of the favored events of the night, and although many of the ranch's wranglers race, Carolynn is the only professional barrel racer to star in the show, "I ride in full-dress code, bring one of my best horses and make the best run I can each rodeo, giving the guests a glimpse of true rodeo runs. All I've done in my life is coming to a head in doing this, it's turned out to be one of the highlights of my life."

Carolynn grew up in San Antonio, Texas as an only child and spent many days at her grandparents' ranch just outside of Campbellton, Texas. Doll and J.G. Callan instilled a love of horses into their granddaughter, and as a child would take her to the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. "Some friends of my grandparents gave us box seat tickets, and from those seats I watched the barrel racing for the first time and was hooked. I knew right then and there that I wanted to barrel race one day." Carolynn's grandpa was a cattleman and although he didn't have rodeo horses, he made sure to buy his young granddaughter a horse that was kept at a nearby boarding stable and Carolynn spent several years riding and even competing in western pleasure shows. "My grandparents bought me a wonderful Palomino gelding named Sunny Boy. I was honored to carry the American flag on him at one of the shows at just 9-years-old; little did I know then that I would one day carry the American flag as Miss Rodeo America, and later at the 1998 opening ceremony



of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo on the WPRCA's 50th Anniversary."

Although Carolynn's dream was to be a barrel racer, even then barrel horses were very expensive, so she started out on ranch horses and entered high school rodeos as a breakaway roper. "I was 4th in the state of Texas in breakaway roping, on borrowed horses with borrowed trailers, actually borrowed everything!" Carolynn graduated from W.B. Ray High School in Corpus Christi, Texas before going on to compete on the college rodeo team for Southwest Texas State as a goat tyer. Carolynn was the NIRA Southern Region Champion Goat Tyer two years in a row and placed deep in the goat tying at the college national finals in 1964. In 1965, the NIRA held a Rodeo Queen contest and Carolynn rode away from the competition with the crown and title that summer. By the fall of that same year, she had also claimed the Miss Rodeo Texas crown, and finally went on to collect the coveted Miss Rodeo America crown, reigning for all three associations in 1966. Carolynn was the first Miss Rodeo America to win in all three categories of the competition; horsemanship, personality, and appearance. After taking the year off from college to focus on her responsibilities as rodeo queen, Carolynn graduated from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas in 1968 with a degree in home economics and speech. Carolynn's senior year of college, a friend set her up on a blind date with Bill, known as Willy; they were married 6 months later and have enjoyed a life of 50-years together so far. Willy served as a T-38 instructor pilot, stationed at the Laredo Air Force base for 6-years during the Vietnam War before the couple and their young son Cal, short for Callan, moved to Willy's family ranch where they raised commercial cross-bred cattle in Philipsburg, Montana. While they were in Montana, Carolynn

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More Than Just a Tire Store

Carolynn Vietor cont...

barrel raced at local amateur rodeos, staying close to home to focus on her family. The couple had their second son, Justin in 1974. Sadly, tragedy struck the young family in 1979 when they suffered the loss of both their 8-year old son, Cal, and Willy's father Bill, in a tragic airplane accident.

In the late 70's Carolynn had a sorrel gelding that made such an impression on her that his impact on her life can still be seen today. "Promino, a son of Classy Bar, was the best horse I have ever owned, and because of him, I bought his full sister, Classy Julie, from Dears Quarter Horses in Simms, Montana, and she and our Doc Bar stud, Dee Barretta have been the foundation of every great horse I've had since then." Carolynn won the Montana Barrel Racing finals on Promino two years, and while riding Promino, she filled her rookie GRA (now the WPRA) permit in 1979 at one rodeo in Helena, Montana. After filling her card while competing in the PRCA Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit, she went to the circuit finals a total of 18 times on 7 different horses. In 2003, she was the Montana Circuit Champion on one of her colts, Classy Eye Am, a sorrel mare more fondly known as Bump. In 2003, Carolynn qualified for the 2004 Dodge National Circuit Finals in Pocatello, Idaho. The couple built a winter home in 2005, just outside of Wickenburg, Arizona and Carolynn stopped going to the Montana circuit rodeos as heavily. However, slowing down was not exactly Carolynn Vietor's speed, and she and Willy continued to compete in the National Senior Pro Rodeo Association, with Carolynn winning the 2008 NSPRA Champion Barrel Racer title on Bump.

In 1985, she held the Northern Region Director position, followed by the Montana Director position for the Women's Professional Rodeo Association, for a total of 10 years before taking the reins as president of the association from 1995 until 2003. After retiring for 10 years, she was re-elected as president once again serving from 2013 until 2016. During Carolynn's time with the WPRA, she not only saw incredible growth in the industry but was also recognized with many honors and awards. Carolynn was named the 1999 Coca-Cola Woman of the Year, 2002 Pioneer Woman of the Year, and was awarded the WPRA Heritage Award in 2002 as well. "Everything is bigger and better, Miss Rodeo America, rodeos, barrel racing, all of it. There are so many more rodeos, more sponsors, and so much more money. No one ever dreamed we'd compete for the money we can today." In 2008, Carolynn was honored as the Texas State University Alumna of the Year because of her work in professional rodeo. Although it was due to the efforts of several board members and many years of earnestly working towards goals, Carolynn was fortunate to see major accomplishments while she was the WPRA president; in 1998, team ropers and barrel racers were given equal money at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, and she was also in the lead of the WPRA when the prize money went to over a million dollars at the WNFR.

Carolynn is as busy as ever today, filled with the same passion for barrel racing that has been the story of her life. "I have a 7-year old horse coming up, so I'm about ready to get more heavily into competing again. I broke my leg last year so that slowed me down some, but I've finally just about forgotten I broke it, so I'm getting back in the groove and ready to go again." Besides judging at multiple events, when in Arizona Willy ropes nearly every day of the week, sometimes going to 2 or 3 ropings a day. They enjoy spending time with Justin, his wife Brook, and their two granddaughters, Ellie, 8, and Reese, 6, (lovingly known as MayMay), who live near Salt Lake City, Utah. Carolynn and Willy are on a desperate search to find the perfect kid horses to share with their granddaughters, hoping to instill the same passion for the lifestyle that her grandparents once did for her.

The Vietor family was inducted to the 2016 Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame and in 2017, Carolynn was included as one of the Outstanding Women of the West at the Montana Silversmith World Reunion and Gold Card Gathering.



Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame 2019 Scholarships

Congratulations To All Recipients!



Logan Beattie - Helena.....\$3,000
Codie Bowen - Worden.....\$3,000
Maclain Cathey - Hammond.....\$3,000
Trey Dempewolf - Lindsay.....\$3,000
Taylor Harris - Florence.....\$3,000
Maggie Lund - Ronan.....\$3,000
Meghan McGinley - Bozeman.....\$3,000
Caleb Meeks - Geraldine.....\$3,000

Rebecca Nelson - Roundup.....\$3,000
Paige Rasmussen - Bozeman.....\$3,000
Mikayla Witter - Helena.....\$3,000
Garret Yeager - Choteau.....\$3,000
Bo Vocu - Ashland.....\$1,000
Maggie King - Choteau.....\$1,000
Kayla Seaman - Kalispell.....\$2,000




Kayla Seaman

Kayla is the 24 year old daughter of Michael and Mary Beth Seaman of Kalispell. Kayla graduated from Montana State with bachelor degrees in Marketing and Management with a Minor in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management. She is currently attending the University of Montana pursuing a Masters of Business Administration. Kayla's

ambitions are to pursue a law degree in Montana through UM. Once established, she wants to be a professor at Montana State teaching business. When asked why she wants to become Miss Rodeo Montana 2019 she states, "The Montana Yogo Sapphire is the only North American gem to be included in the Crown Jewels of England, so you can say Montana is known for producing unique masterpieces. Montana is also known

for creating gems in the PRCA rodeo arena. Our Montana Cowboys and Cowgirls are hardworking, meticulous, and show their sportsmanlike behavior day in and day out through their western lifestyle. I want to be Miss Rodeo Montana so I can continue our deep heritage and legacy of rodeo. Growing up just south of Glacier National Park, known as the crown jewel of the continent, I have had the privilege of watching, learning about, and being a part of America's original extreme sport. I love volunteering my time to help people, whether it be for educational purposes, rodeo, or just to help a friend out. I am a fifth-generation Montanan that displays values that we all hold near and dear. I seek the ability to represent our state, as many successful women before me have, with the same wholehearted professional manner. If chosen as Miss Rodeo Montana, I will continue to encompass the Montana lifestyle with grace, dignity, and pride. Becoming Miss Rodeo Montana would allow me to be an ambassador for the Treasure State, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and the way we live."



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Western Heritage Awards

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Individuals that have contributed to rodeo and western way of life in Montana

Jim Croff

Jim Croff, a saddle bronc star who served nearly three decades as President of the Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit, passed away August 31, 2019, at the age of 62 from head injuries and a broken neck suffered in a horse accident fifteen months earlier.

"Oh my gosh, it's tough," said Dave Urick. "It's just too hard to believe he's not here." Urick grew up with Croff at the base of the Highwood Mountains. They lived about a half-mile apart on Little Belt Creek and went to the same small country school. "We'd walk to school together, walk home together, ride horses and sleds and whatever else," Urick said. They both grew up to be rough stock stars. "Whatever Jim was doing, he went at it full-bore," said Urick, a celebrated professional bull rider. Urick achieved much in his rodeo career and is on the shortlist of famous Montana bull riders. He considered Croff a notch above. Jim had charisma. He had character. And he had confidence. "There in 1981 when we were knocking on the door and both were in the top 20 in the world, I didn't know if I belonged with those top bull riders," Urick said. "But Jim on the other hand, he knew he belonged with the top guys in the world and he would have made it easily if he hadn't broken his leg." Croff was sitting No.10 in the PRCA bronc world standings when a bad wreck at a rodeo in Buffalo, Minnesota left him with a broken leg.

Though he never again challenged for a world championship or a spot at the National Finals Rodeo, Croff went on to prominence as president of his home state circuit. Along with friends Duane Walker and others, Croff helped make the Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals the nation's best - both in terms of prize money and reputation. It came as no surprise to those who knew Croff the best, as he was always dedicated to excellence. "Jim and I were on the rodeo board together for over 38 years and worked side by side throughout the year to plan the Circuit Finals," Walker said. "And it didn't matter if we were at the Ram National Circuit Finals or hunting on his ranch, we were always brainstorming ideas on how to keep the Montana Circuit Finals the best finals in the PRCA. You couldn't go anywhere with Jim without someone knowing him. He was known in the rodeo world from coast to coast." Croff was known for his skill and his smarts. He served as a pro rodeo judge for years with respected men such as Bob Burkhart and others. And Jim was perhaps known best for his disposition. "I learned one thing about Jim," Walker said. "It didn't matter if it were the cowboys in his life, his family, his friends, stock contractors, media, everyone respected and liked Jim and his warm smile. He was cowboy tough and a man of his word - and



he had a giant kind heart. I will miss my dear friend."

Croff's daughter, Jimi Rae, captured that heart from the time she was born. She worked side by side with her Dad on their ranch, Lone Tree, south of Geysers, Montana. When Jimi Rae races the barrels forevermore, she will do so knowing that her Dad is right there in the saddle with her.

Bud Pauley grew up in Miles City and learned to ride broncs with the best of them. He qualified six times for the NFR and in 1985 finished fourth in the world standings. Pauley traveled extensively with Croff. "Jim was a dear, dear friend of mine," Pauley said. For 40 years they were buddies. "He was dedicated from the first day I met him to everything in life, whether it was the ranch or rodeo or anything else," Pauley said. "He was a straight-ahead guy. There was no fooling around with him." Pauley said Croff was loyal, trust-worthy and talented. Though he never rode at the NFR, Croff sure could have. "That's a funny deal right there," Pauley said. "Jim rode better than 85 percent of the guys going down the road, really. He just never got the breaks like some of us did. I don't know of anybody that didn't like Jim," said Pauley. And then he paused...

Jim Croff: A rodeo star of the brightest kind. A made-in-Montana man whose talent and temperament helped him become a beloved figure all across Cowboy Country. Folks all over the West revered Jim for his bronc riding style. Many of us back home just loved him for his smile.

"And I don't know of anybody that he didn't like." One last pause. "More than the cowboy thing, he was a lifelong friend," Pauley said. "You never had to worry about where you stood with Jim Croff. He was a dear friend. I miss him every day." - Bud Pauley

Brad Gjermundson grew up in North Dakota and became a bronc-riding prodigy. He won four world championships and qualified nine times for the NFR en route to a Hall of Fame career. Gjermundson also traveled down the rodeo road with Croff. "Jim was a cowboy. He loved being a cowboy, and he was good at it," said Gjermundson. "His friendship and what he did for rodeo will be missed by many, many people for a long, long time." Gjermundson, like Croff, grew up in a small ranching community. Both men could be soft-spoken, and both earned loud ovations from rodeo fans. "Jim grew up in a time and an era when there were some really rank horses around," Gjermundson said. "He rodeoed around rodeo contractors like Marvin Brookman, Reg Kesler,



and Sonny Linger - the best. Jim was real strong, and strong horses didn't affect him. Because he held his feet good and he just rode so correct. He had style. On the toughest horses, he could make it look easy," Gjermundson said.

Western Heritage Awards

Individuals that have contributed to rodeo and western way of life in Montana



Croff's final professional ride came at the Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals in January of 1980. On a below-zero day, Croff rode Sonny Linger's "Curly Wolf" to a winning high score of 82 points. "That was a great horse for a long time," Gjermundson said. "I've seen pictures from that ride, and I

mean, you don't get them any better. That horse got in the air good and Jim had his feet set in his neck just right. It's one of the greatest bronc riding pictures out there." Croff qualified nine times for the Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals and won two year-end titles. In 1990, after another winning ride at the Montana Pro Rodeo Finals, Croff retired from riding broncs. But he never retired from rodeo. Gjermundson was a rugged rodeo star, but his voice softens considerably when considering Jim's passing. "His friendship and his smile ...," Gjermundson said. And then he paused. "We all miss him," Gjermundson said. "His community will definitely suffer the most because he did a lot for neighbors and friends. For everybody, really." Gjermundson said Croff will always live in his memory. "He had that big smile," he said. "And a handshake you'll never forget."

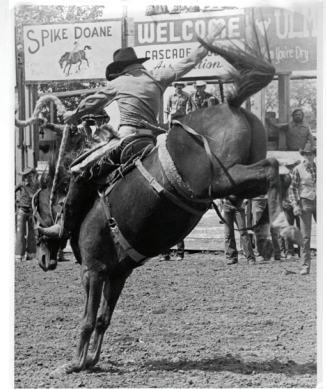


Urick said, "Croff never quite regained his top form after that leg injury. But he never felt sorry for himself." After retiring from the arena, Croff became an executive with the Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit. He was just as successful in that job as

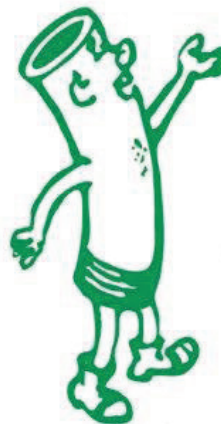
he had been in the saddle. This is not to suggest Jim's life was all butterflies and balloons. There were hardships on the ranch, particularly when he was bitten by two rattlesnakes at the same time on the same leg while working at his ranch. Jim survived that scrape with the serpents and continued to display his cowboy toughness during the last fifteen months of his life. He was helping friends and relatives during a branding in June of 2018 when, as the result of a horseback accident, he suffered head injuries that included a broken neck. Jim was initially in intensive care for ten long weeks and battled his critical injuries for fifteen long months, being in and out of intensive care many times. In his final compassionate act, Croff became an organ donor. "It's going to take a giant of a person to fit Jim's heart," said Dr. Dale Schaefer, the Montana Pro Rodeo Sports Medicine "A" Team neurological surgeon and friend.

The Treasure State has known many hometown heroes who became saddle bronc stars, legends like Bud Pauley, Benny Reynolds, Bill Linderman, Shawn Davis, Dan Mortensen, Ryan

Mapston, Jess Martin, and Jesse Kruse. Each enjoyed more riding triumphs than Croff. Success, though, is perhaps measured more accurately by the quantity of friendships rather than the accumulation of trophy saddles. By that standard, Jim Croff was a king of the cowboys in Montana. "Jim was just so much fun to be around," Urick said. "He had such a robust laugh. He just made you feel good." Many folks in Montana and beyond know exactly what Urick means. Jim will be missed deeply by his family and friends.



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Western Heritage Awards

Individuals that have contributed to rodeo and western way of life in Montana

Leonard Wortman

I was born in Great Falls, Montana in February 1949 during one of the worst blizzards anyone could remember. We lived in Cascade, Bozeman and Manhattan until I was about 11, when we moved to a ranch in the Boulder Valley owned by a rodeo stock contractor named Mike Quinn and my life truly began.

When we lived in Manhattan, it was on a large ranch where we kids were rarely allowed outside the yard. It was a really big deal even to ride a horse, and that usually took place in a corral. But on the Quinn Ranch all I had to do was catch a horse, make sure there wasn't a number on its butt and ride anywhere I wanted.

Jim Wing also lived on the Quinn Ranch, and being a little older than me, he taught me a lot. I also got to run around with the DeMers and the Bauer clans. Having led a fairly sheltered life up until then, I had to get real tough in a big hurry just to survive with those guys. Growing up then wasn't for the faint of heart.

My dad and several uncles all had rodeoed, and being around the rodeos Mike Quinn put on got me hooked on rodeo right off. I got on my first bull when I was 12. At the time my dad was on crutches and my mom didn't know anything at all about me getting on a bull, so when they announced my name, apparently my mother jumped up in the stands and yelled that she was going to wrap those crutches around my dad's neck.

I tried every event in high school rodeo and might even have been responsible for a rule change in one of the timed events. All I had to rope on was a green broke horse that had a little over 30 days on him. It was pouring rain and the arena was like a big bog hole, yet I was still able to rope and tie down a calf in two minutes and thirty-eight seconds. The next year they had a one-minute time limit.

When I was 14 I crushed three discs in my lower back, and the next year I tore up my knee pretty bad. I got hurt so much that somebody said every time my name was announced they started the ambulance. I took a lot of pain pills, and eventually learned they worked a whole lot better if chased by half a pint of whiskey.

I got married in 1968 and had three sons -- Dennis, Shannon and Bill -- who all rodeoed and grew up to be great young men. They are all running the fence company now.

I continued to work and rodeo for a number of years, except for taking off a couple different years for two separate back fusions. I finally got to a point where I could hardly function anymore because of the back and the booze, so I finally got sober in 1983 and changed my life again.



One day in 1988 I was moving some cows down the road when a couple of neighbors stopped and asked if I would run for county assessor. Because about eight people were already running I thought it must be a good deal, so I decided to give it a try. I ended up defeating the deputy assessor who had been at it for 19 years -- a little strange since I didn't even know how to spell assessor when I filed. Four years later I was elected as a county commissioner, and at the end of that six-year term I decided not to run again because I was getting burned out with all the meetings.

In 1993, while judging a local rodeo in Boulder, I met Carole as she was getting on a cow. We were married three years later and have been a team ever since.

I went back to building fence and doing some ranch and construction work. The boys decided they wanted to keep the fence company going, so these days they are doing most of the fence work. (I still do a little on weekends.)

In January 2010, given an opportunity to be appointed back to the County Commission I took it. Right off the bat I was the driving force that prevented a \$1 billion project from taking a bunch of private property in Jefferson County for a power line. The developers could have put it almost all on public land, but I guess they figured private land was easier and cheaper to obtain. We have since had some trying times, with the pending closure of the Golden Sunlight Mine in Whitehall and the closure of the Montana Developmental Center in Boulder causing the loss of about 400 jobs between the two. I've also been able to work on several pretty controversial issues that have kept the job interesting, most recently the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center.

Following the fiasco in Big Timber, when the MCHF & WHC lost all of its money plus about \$500,000 of taxpayer funds, they sought letters of interest from communities that might want the facility. Jefferson County put forth a letter and said we would build and operate a 20,000 sq. ft. facility at the I-15 interchange in Boulder. The Board of Directors decided instead to take a proposal from a museum in Great Falls that basically said it would assemble a committee from both organizations to figure out how they would make the Hall of Fame work in a 1,700 sq. ft. basement room.

We haven't let that stop us in Jefferson County. We are now working with the Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame to possibly locate their facility in Boulder. As of this writing Jefferson County has hired a firm to do a preliminary architectural and engineering report and an economic feasibility report. Part of what we want to do is also have a Western-themed historical museum.

Our Western values are constantly being eroded and lost for future generations. I have been and plan to continue to fight to preserve our heritage in a way that will expose it as much as we can to as many people as possible. Having the Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame and the Western museum in Boulder will accomplish that goal.

Western Heritage Awards

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Individuals that have contributed to rodeo and western way of life in Montana

Mike McCoy

My mother was born on a homestead out of Harlem, Montana that is, and my Grandfather had a cattle buying station in Ekalaka at the turn of the century.

Both my Grandfather and father were in the South St Paul Stockyards and told me we were related to Joseph McCoy, who is credited with founding the Kansas City and Dodge City Stockyards and hosting the first of many cattle drives there. Rodeo is the only sport that grew out of an industry-the cattle industry. During the depression my Dad moved to Lancaster, PA, where I was born.

I had a deep love of horses and got my start riding workhorse collars for our neighbors, the Amish. I started roping calves at 13 and skipping school to attend horse sales. I entered my first Rodeo at 16 at Cow Town, NJ, and I caught the bug!

I entered Montana State College in 1961 and made the rodeo team roping calves, bull doggin, and bareback bronc riding. I made the College Finals every year. Our team ranked second in the region in 1961, and we won the region the following three years.

I entered rodeos from NY to Florida, Texas to CA, Vancouver and Edmonton Canada (won a go-around there) Rodeo teaches it isn't all about me. It was the people I traveled with and rode with. Rodeo people are always there to give you a hand up, and I'm grateful to all of them like Ken & Lois Nottings, George Doaks, Sam McDowell, Bud Pilcher, Hugh Muller, Walt Linderman, Benny Reynolds, cousin Dick McCoy, Dale Little Soldier, Robin Johnson, Lance Krone, Barney Faircloth, Leon Barley, The Bones Brothers Erv and Allen Alderson, Warren Wurthier, Dean Woodard, Jack Dawson, Buck Bradford, John Warzinski, Bill Frazer, Donnie



Walters, Hal Churchill, Howard Harris, Jess Goodspeed and John Edwards. You did it cause you loved it, and the stories you'd hear -- I've heard thousands! And all of 'em true! Like the time Jake Frank and Bud Pilcher were picking up for Oral Zumwalt. They had a crowd pleasing act where they turned a lion in with a Mexican fighting bull. The lion would chase the bull and grab him by the tail. When it came time to run them out, Jake informed Bud that his horse didn't like lions! Well, the gate came open and Bud cracked his rope over Jake's horse's rump. Jake's horse brushed by the lion and kicked at him and the lion grabbed his tail! The horse blew up and they all ended up in a ball. With Jake yelling at Bud you've jobbed me for the last time! I never made it to the finals but it was quite a thrill to beat the champions. I did win Red Lodge and Sheridan (almost died there) Oh, the memories!

I bought and sold cattle in every continental state, three provinces of Canada and Mexico. If there was a rodeo close, I was entered!

The best thing I did was marry the love of my life, Diane. Did I mention after we got married I gained 45 pounds and my rodeos became the gateway rodeos. We had three children Willy, Jake and Becky. Only through God's grace did we get through Willy's death in 1997. God has granted us a new lease on life with eight wonderful grandchildren and one on the way!

When my kids started riding I began thinking about safety and did things like splitting their boots up the back or just not using stirrups. And no lace-up boots! heard of an 18 year old who was drug to death at a branding, and I was inspired to develop the breakaway stirrup. I partnered up with Buck Bradford and came up with something safe, that you can't tell from a regular stirrup. To date, we have 337 documented drags prevented. All in all, it's been quite a life!



Western Heritage Awards

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Individuals that have contributed to rodeo and western way of life in Montana

Rennaker Family

The entire Rennaker family would like to thank the Montana Hall and Wall of Fame for this honor.

Dwain Rennaker moved to the family ranch on Old Darby Road south of Hamilton when he was five years old. Dwain married Lillian Satterlee in 1955 and they made their home on the ranch. In 1962 they were able to purchase the ranch and raised six children, who were their best ranch hands: Kari, Lori, Jani, Shelli, Amy, and Loyd. Hard work, honesty, and dedication were instilled in all of the family. In addition to ranching, they owned and operated Bar RL Outfitters for over 25 years. Summer family vacations were spent packing into the wilderness, preparing for hunting camp. In 1989 they started Rennaker Cattle Buyers, buying and selling cattle in Western Montana. Dwain made his cattle business successful by putting loads together and helping small producers market their cattle. They helped start the Bitterroot Stockgrowers and Lillian was a 4-H leader and has always been active serving others in her church. Her hospitality and compassion are unsurpassed. The Ravalli County Fair recognized them as the "Fair Family of the Year" in 2012. Dwain was inducted into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in 2014. Dwain and his brother Dale started the love of rodeo in the Rennaker family by building an arena on the ranch. Dwain rodeoed and competed in all events; his favorite was Saddle Bronc Riding. He qualified two times for the National High School Finals in five events: 1953 in Hallettsville, TX and 1954 in Harrison, NE. He was the WMRA Bull Riding Champion in 1961 and rode his last bronc at the Darby Arena when he was 48 years old. He trained his own horses. Nights at the arena on the ranch were a family affair with many hours spent roping, training, and practicing. Many young roughstock riders got their start on the pack horses and range bulls. They hosted professional, amateur, and youth rodeos at the ranch, with Lillian running the office and Dwain the arena. They were also involved in building the Bitterroot Indoor Arena north of Hamilton and the Darby Rodeo Arena and they were very active with the Bitterroot Gymkhana Club.

The Rennaker's love of rodeo has been passed on to their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Lori rodeoed for Ricks College and BYU. Her daughter Shonda



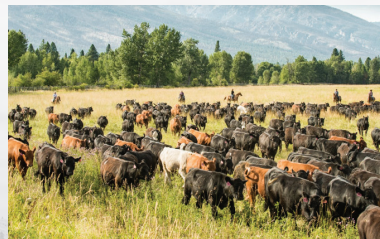
was on the Miles Community College rodeo team. Shelli and her daughters, Raegan and Ryanne, were awarded the all-around cowgirl title for the Big Sky Region while rodeoing for Montana State University. Raegan was awarded a scholarship from the Hall and Wall of Fame in 2012. Amy won the Montana State High School Goat Tying championship. Her son J.T. Robbins was the 1998 State Saddle Bronc Riding Champion; he qualified for the Montana Circuit Finals 12 times, and won the Circuit Title in 2003. Loyd qualified for the CNFR three times and was a coach for the University of Montana rodeo team for five years. His daughter Katelynn qualified for the Silver State Finals and his daughter Halie was an Idaho State Finals contestant.

What is Montana life for the Rennaker's now?

Oldest daughter Kari lives with her family in Columbia Falls. Her husband Skip is the head electrician for Stoltz Lumber Mill. Kari's dedication to her family has been an inspiration to us all. Lori is a successful real estate broker in the Bitterroot Valley and she works hard to combat the noxious weeds on the ranch. Her husband Doug is retired. John Meuchel took a packing and guiding class that was offered at Hamilton High School (taught by Dwain) and started working for him that fall and he never left, marrying Jani. Jani is active in Rennaker Cattle, handling the bookkeeping and shipping cattle in the fall. Shelli is a Work Comp auditor in Western Montana. Amy loves photography and is an Event Planner. Loyd recently retired from the Darby School District after 24 years to work full time at the ranch and in the cattle business. His wife Stacie is the librarian in Darby.

After 64 years of marriage the ranch is still the family's gathering place which includes, 20 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren who love the ranch and enjoy horseback riding, gathering cattle, ATV riding, and visiting.

Through it all, whether in rodeo, ranching, outfitting or the cattle business it is not what you accumulate in life but more about cherishing the friends and relationships you have built along the way. Thank you all for being a part of our lives.



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Lady of the West

The lady behind the scenes...

Lois Hill

Lois and John Hill lived in Geyser, Montana most of their lives. John's ancestors came to the Geyser area in 1883 and Lois's in 1912. John and Lois were married in 1957 and ranched north of Geyser for several years. Lois helped on the ranch, outside haying along with the cattle & horse work and was the bookkeeper. She also cooked for the outfitting business and the hired help, sometimes cooking for 10 to 15 people 3 meals a day. In 1999 they down sized to a 6000 acre ranch east of Worden. John's health wasn't great, so in 2003 they sold that ranch and moved to Raynesford to retire. John changed his zip code to Heaven in December of 2015. They had been married for 58 years.



Their whole family competed in rodeos. John competed in steer wrestling and occasionally team roping in the Northern Rodeo Association. They had one of the top steer wrestling teams in the NRA, carrying several to the pay window and 2 championships. Mary, the oldest, won the NRA Jr All Around, plus the breakaway championship two times, she also was rookie of the year her first year in adult competition. Their son, Lyle, was a steer wrestler and occasionally team roped with Mary. Lyle was more into mechanics and welding. LuAnn, the youngest, was a top barrel racer and placed in the breakaway also, she won several all-around titles in college. LuAnn was also a rodeo queen in high school, college and the NRA. In 1981 twenty year old LuAnn was fatally injured in a fall. The entire family worked for Dale Small Rodeo for several years, everything from chute help (both rough stock and timed events) secretary, timer, and John judged many NRA rodeos.

Lois has been horse crazy from the time she saw her first horse, even though her parents were not "horse people". It was always her dream to raise good registered quarter horses, and that dream certainly came true. John and Lois started Hill Quarter Horses, and have been in the business over 50 years. At one time owning more than 40 brood mares and 4 stallions. One of their stallions, Cash In Your Bux, was listed in the top 20 in the nation as sire of barrel futurity and derby horses. Now the horse herd is only two retired brood mares and one stallion,

Hills Dash To Vegas, Cash's brother. Mary has two brood mares and is just about as horse crazy as her mom. The Z lazy T branded horses are recognized as some of the top barrel racing, roping & steer wrestling horses in the country.

Lois has been involved with rodeo since the early 1960s when she entered her first rodeo in White Sulphur Springs back then it was the Montana Rodeo Assn. She placed 3rd and the rodeo bug bit hard! Lois ran barrels in Northern Rodeo Association, jackpots, Quarter Horse shows, Senior rodeos & WPRA. She was instrumental in getting added money at PRCA rodeo barrel races in Montana many years ago. They were just jackpotting the barrel race, she helped convince committees that they could take some of the entertainment money and add to the barrel race, then cowgirls would have a dress code of colored pants, long sleeved shirts, boots and hats—adding color and excitement to the rodeo. Now, the added money for barrel racing is mostly even as that for the other events! Don Garland and Lois set up the very first Coors awards program.

Lois was president of the Montana Barrel Race Association for 9 years. Lois has held several positions with the NRA. She served as Barrel Race Director, Awards Chairman, Vice President then President for 4 years. She even filled in as Secretary / Treasurer and Finals Chairman one year. Lois is still involved as an NRA Advisory Board Member.

The John and Lois Hill family were presented with the NRA Personality of the year bronze in 1981. In 2013, John and Lois were honored with the Cowboy and Cowgirl Heritage award by the Pro Rodeo Wall and Hall of Fame. That same year Lois was given the MQHA Heritage plaque.

Lois was a founding director of the North American Rodeo Commission, which consisted of teams from USA, Canada, Mexico and Australia. They put on team rodeos at the Rodeo Royale and Calgary Stampede and had their Worlds Finals Rodeo in Gallop, NM, Denver, CO and El Paso, TX.

Lois is very involved in her community & church. She was awarded the Geyser/Raynesford Community Volunteer in 2013. John and Lois had several young folks come live with them during their high school years. She was also active with an agriculture exchange program for several years. They had over a dozen young adults from around the world (mostly Australia) stay with them for 9 months at a time, helping out on their ranch and learning about America. Lois also held the position

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Lady of the West

of National Promotion Coordinator and International Convention Chairman for that group. She attended international conventions in Germany, Denmark, New Zealand and Great Falls.

The family had Hill Country Outfitting, an outfitting and summer guest business for over 30 years. So of course Lois was involved with the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association as a director and chairing their two conventions per year for several years. She also was asked to speak at ranch/recreation seminars to share their success with other ranchers.

The loves of Lois's life are her grandsons. Cody is 35, he and RaeAnn will be married in 2020. Justin is 31, he married Lauren in 2017.

Lois is very humbled & honored to be given the award of Lady of the West. She said, "Thank you so much, I have some impressive boot prints to follow, given the ladies that have received this award in the past."



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DiaEVENTS

Great Montana Ranches

Ranches that have contributed to the Montana western lifestyle

Kirch Ranch

The history of a ranch is in its people.

"I always wanted to be a cowboy, so when my folks finally landed in Billings when I was ten years old (1892), I did all kinds of jobs to get money to buy the gear necessary for a good puncher. My dad helped me by buying for my eleventh birthday a bay saddle mare, a pair of homemade boots for \$10 and a two dollar saddle. Boy, was I proud!"

–James Frederick Kirch (They Gazed Upon the Beartooths)
Fred lived out his dream. From ages 10 to 17, Fred worked many jobs to build up a stake for his future in the saddle. He worked as a cowherd in the city of Billings for 25 cents a day. He and two other boys would collect milk cows from Billings families, trail them outside the city limits, run herd on them during the day and then return them to their homes. He delivered papers, boasting that at one time Calamity Jane was on his paper route. As he grew so did his dreams and skills as a "cow puncher".

At age 17, Fred left the safety of the city to work the big cattle outfits in south central Montana. Over the years, Fred gained the respect of many of the cattlemen he worked with and for. His instincts and intelligence made him a natural in ranching. Fred's work ethic continues to filter down through the Kirch generations today.

In 1913, Fred went from a cowboy to a rancher. At age 31, he purchased a ranch in the upper Stillwater Valley on Little Rocky Creek. The Kirch Ranch at the foot of the Beartooth Mountains came in to being. Fred purchased the ranch from a sheepman named Robinson. Robinson ran into some trouble with local cattlemen. They burned him out and he left looking for a friendlier environment.

In 1917, Fred married the neighbor girl, Alice Schweneker, 12 years his junior, whose family homesteaded on Prairie Dog Creek. As Fred and Alice settled into married life, the ranch grew bit by bit and they worked to build a herd of registered Herefords. As the ranch grew, so did the Kirch family. Eight children were born to Fred and Alice, three boys and then five girls. The two oldest boys, Junior and Norman, at ages 4 and 5, died in a house fire while the family was attending a family wedding in the Musselshell area. As strong and resilient ranch families do, they mourned the tragic loss of their boys and worked harder.

The third son, Gerald, was only a few months old at the time of his brothers' deaths. Gerald became his dad's shadow and helper. Inheriting his father's instincts for working with the cattle, he became a driving force on the ranch. He attended school through tenth grade and then stayed home to help take care of business.

The Kirch girls, Maysel, Mildred, Margaret, Mary Jane, and Marilyn became ranch hands. Tales of Gerald "bossing" the girls are numerous. Bribing his sisters was also a popular topic at family gatherings. If they wanted a ride into town

(twenty miles down the road) on a Saturday night, they were at their brother's mercy. Added chores included shining his shoes, pressing his pants, putting a shine on the auto, etc.

In 1944, at age 21, Gerald left the ranch to serve in the U.S. Army in the Pacific. His experiences as this country boy traveled the world made him an even more confident and mature young man. When he returned to the ranch, Fred was starting to think retirement and Gerald, the second generation, was ready to take on the operation of the ranch. A few years later, Fred and Alice were settled into a snug little home in Absarokee.

Gerald was a serious and reserved young man. As young men do, he was keeping his eye out for a pretty girl to share life on the ranch. He knew some of the Walter Hamilton family who had run a dairy farm on the West Rosebud, but had never met Oleafa May Hamilton. Oleafa had trained to be a dental nurse in San Francisco and was then working for Dr. Swanson in Columbus. Gerald boldly made an appointment for a dental exam and met Miss Hamilton. The two were married in November of 1949. They were a team for almost 60 years until Oleafa's passing in 2009.



The third generation, two sons, was born to Gerald and Oleafa, Robert in 1950 and Fred in 1952. The boys learned that "hard work didn't kill you" and that "work before play" was the rule on the ranch. There were lots of fun activities,

Great Montana Ranches

Ranches that have contributed to the Montana western lifestyle

too. Social life on the ranch included family gatherings, evenings with neighbors, and community celebrations. The boys participated in 4-H, FFA, and football. Bob and Fred were known to be two of the best "bale stackers" in the county. At 5 cents a bale, they took great pride in creating squared off haystacks for friends and neighbors.

In August, 1968, tragedy again visited the Kirch family. Young Fred was involved in an auto accident on his 16th birthday. Two other young men were killed in the accident. Fred passed a few days later in the hospital in Billings. The sadness was overwhelming. But, again, things needed to be done and the family continued with sad hearts.

In 1969, Bob graduated from high school and headed off to Helena to attend four years at the Vo-Tech school. He concentrated on Ag Mechanics and Auto Mechanics. He was a weekend rancher. He returned to the ranch after completing the program to work side by side with his dad. In the 70's, Black Angus cattle pushed out the traditional Kirch Herefords. Updating equipment and methods kept Gerald and Bob busy and always learning.

Bob married and, in time, contributed three daughters to the fourth generation of the Kirch family. Tammi, Sandi, and Brittany are busy with families of their own but love to pitch in whenever the need arises. Family gatherings revolve around shipping and branding and working cows as well as an occasional holiday. The three girls have done their part in adding seven youngsters to the fifth generation, all of them good hands when grandpa puts them to work.

In 2013, over 300 friends and family members from across the country gathered at the ranch for a Centennial

Celebration. Gerald, at age 90, welcomed each and every one of them with a huge smile on his face. Bob and his longtime friend, Kathy, got everyone's attention with a surprise wedding. Kathy, now retired from teaching, has become an apprentice ranch hand. Bob and Kathy face the fun and challenges of ranch life on a daily basis. It's a great place to be!

Gerald Robert Kirch passed away on June 1, 2017 in the shadow of the Beartooths. A life well lived!



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Great Montana Ranches

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BOOT BARN

Ranches that have contributed to the Montana western lifestyle

The Lazy K6

The Lazy K6 Ranch was founded in 1915 by Von Dane Lenington, born January 18, 1893, in Huntsville, Indiana. He left home when he was just 16, finding himself on a train headed towards Montana. He ended up getting off in Havre where he set off on foot to Big Sandy, walking 40 miles to the homestead site which was located south east of Big Sandy near the Bear's Paw Mountains on Arrow Creek in 1915. Two years later, he had proved up on his homestead and could call the Lazy K6 his own.



Von was called to War in 1917 and served as a Military Cook until the end of World War I in 1919. Instead of returning to the Bear's Paw homestead, he landed in Fort Benton and ended up settling in Tunis, MT just west of Fort Benton. In 1925 he entered a Farm and Ranch Partnership with his brother Clayton.

In 1928, Von purchased property from Aldric La Barre. The land was located 20 miles Northwest of Fort Benton on the Marias River. The final patent was filed in 1933 and this is where he made his home, farming and ranching until his death in Aug of 1975.

Von married Esther Smith in 1934. Esther was born in 1905, she was also from the Huntsville Indiana area. Von and Clayton parted in 1949, Von taking the Marias River and Goosebill land and Clayton the Tunis property. Von and Esther raised 7 children on the Lazy K6 Ranch, the oldest born in 1935, the youngest in 1947. Two of the 7 children decided to stay and work the K6, Edward, the youngest son and Ruth, his older sister (Steen's mother).

Von was looking for hired help when he found Bendt Andreasen, who was born in Denmark, and came to America on a Scandinavian Foundation work program in 1960 at the age of 27, where he was lucky enough to find a job working for Von on the Lazy K6 Ranch. Ruth and Bendt married in 1965 and took a very active role in

running the K6. In 1975 Von passed away while still working his beloved farm.

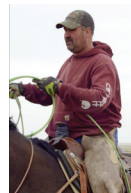
Bendt and Ruth then partnered with Ruth's brother Edward Lenington to run the family ranch. Ruth and Ed's mother Esther, passed away in 1980. Bendt and Ruth raised 6 children on the ranch. The oldest two boys, Henning, born in 1965 and Steen, born in 1967, along with 4 girls, Anna and Yvonne (twins), Erika, and the baby, Nilia. They all lived and worked on the ranch until College. Upon graduating from College Henning and Steen returned to the K6 and worked full time.

Steen married Dawn Haagenson in 1989 and they have two boys, Dane and Toren. We live and work on the Lazy K6 still. Henning married in 1992 and had two boys as well, Anders and Jaron, they also live and worked on the ranch.

Bendt retired in 1995, slowly turning over control of the ranch to Henning and Steen until his untimely death in 1999. After Bendt's death Ed and Ruth Lenington partnered with Henning and Steen in the running of the ranch. Unexpectedly, Henning died in June of 2013 at the age of 46. Steen and Dawn bought Henning's shares and continued to run the Lazy K6 with the help of Anders, Dane, Jaron and Toren.

Ruth and Ed retired in 2014 selling the Lazy K6 Ranch to Steen and Dawn. In 2016 we lost Anders tragically at the age of 24. The K6 has lost so many major members of our family but we trudge on hoping to make a better place for the future generations of the Lazy K6 family. Steen and Dawn, along with the K6 boys, Dane, Jaron and Toren Andreasen continue to aspire to the dream that Steen's grandfather Von saw so many years ago. The Lazy K6 is more than a Farm or Ranch, it is our life, our livelihood, our happy place, it's our FAMILY. It takes hard work, faith and passion, and the family members before us have laid a strong foundation for this generation to continue on and hopefully care for future generations to come.

Thank you,
Ed Lenington, Ruth, Steen, Dawn, Dane, Jaron & Toren Andreasen



Great Montana Ranches

This page sponsored by



Ranches that have contributed to the Montana western lifestyle

Rising Ranch

Rising Ranch is a five generation, 115 year old ranch established in 1904 by Oscar and Martha Keener. Oscar and Martha ventured west from Wisconsin and homesteaded what is now Rising Ranch. Rising Ranch is located in southeast Montana 20 miles north of Baker on Highway 7 along Ash Creek. Oscar and Martha farmed, raised sheep and cattle. In 1919 they adopted Pauline (Stroup) Keener (1916-1996). In 1941 Pauline married Murray Melcher (1913-2005). At this time Pauline and Murray took over operation of the ranch and established the first Black Angus cattle herd in southeastern Montana. Pauline and Murray raised sheep and worked hard establishing their herd of Black Angus cattle. Pauline was a charter member of the Baker Cowbells and held numerous offices in the state and national organization. Murray and Pauline loved lambing, horses and watching their herd of cattle prosper. In June of 1944, Linda was born. Her love of animals has kept her working the ranch her entire life. In November, 1963, Linda married Ralph Rising (1934-2018). Together, Ralph and Linda built the cattle herd with Murray and Pauline. In 1980, Ralph and Linda took over operation of the ranch. In 1969, Ralph and Linda adopted Pete (Nistler) Rising. Since 2012, Pete and his wife Carol now live and work on the ranch. In 2018 Pete and Carol took over operation of the ranch. They



have two sons, Wyatt and Morgan. After completing college, Wyatt has returned to the ranch to partner with Pete and continue the tradition. Morgan is currently in college and has aspirations to return to the ranch as well. The family is still raising Black Angus cattle, horses and enjoying the agriculture way of life. Pete, Wyatt and Morgan are past members of the National High School Rodeo Association and competed at nationals, current or past members of the PRCA, NIRA, NRA, & NDRA. The entire family has enjoyed rodeos and horse events for generations. They take pride in preserving the cowboy way of life and western heritage.



Teigen Land and Livestock

The Teigen ranch was started in 1884 when Mons Teigen (an immigrant from Norway) along with two cousins Knute and Ole Opheim formed a partnership and purchased 3200 head of sheep in the Gallatin Valley. The sheep were trailed up the Shields Valley and down the Musselshell and then crossed over into the McDonald Creek area. Knute sold out in 1890 and Ole drowned in the Creek seven years later. Mons bought out their interest and it has been the Teigen Ranch ever since. Mons married Elsie Bordsen in 1897 and built the present ranch home where their two sons, Peter and Bard were born.

As the story goes the railroad came through between 1914 and 1917 and a small community of Teigen was built with a general store, a hotel, a lumber and grain company, a post office (of which the Teigen Ranch still

has its own Zip Code 59084) and the community hall, where the Teigen Debating Society had many grand debates. And then Mons built a school using his own money so that his sons did not have to leave home anymore to go to school. The school was used from 1914 until 1936. The train ran from Winnett to Lewistown and then finally stopped and the tracks were pulled up in 1972.

The Teigen family has endured the years of hard times and good times to expand the ranch to what it is today. After about 90 years of raising sheep they switched over to cattle and since then have been running about 1000 mothers cows on the ranch. But sadly with the many grandchildren and great grandchildren scattered throughout the United States the decision has been made to sell the family ranch but the heritage will live on in our hearts forever.

Great Montana College Rodeo Program

Dawson Community College Rodeo

The Dawson Community College Rodeo program began in the 1960s under the direction of Rosemary Aus. Tom Ree and Carol Hilliard joined the coaching staff in the early 70s and were instrumental in the program's success for over 30 years. This trio of leadership produced multiple men's and women's teams that finished in the top 10 both regionally and nationally. The highest achievement came in 1981, when the men's team won the National Championship. The highest finish for the women's team was 5th in 1980. Over time, Bill and Joyce Ayre, Phil Lohman, Jeanie Nelson, Seth



Weishaar, Jim Baisch, Bill Blankenship, Rod Paschke, and Kortney Diegel all have coached the DCC rodeo team to numerous trips to the College National Finals Rodeo.

The rodeo program at DCC today strives to uphold the same core principles as were originally set in place. Top rodeo athletes across the region are recruited and the focus is on excellence not only in the arena, but in the classroom and the community as well. Quality practice is a high priority, and access to an indoor facility allows the team to practice year-round. The practice stock is second to none, as J Bar J and Eiker Cattle Company provide the stock and are two of the best stock contractors around. As a direct result, DCC rodeo athletes go on to excel at all levels of competition.

Great Montana Pro Rodeo

PRCA Rodeos in Montana that exemplify the sport of professional rodeo

75 Years of the Drummond PRCA Rodeo

In 1942 a group of ranchers decided to put on the rodeo & horse races. The rodeo was put on Main Street. The horse races were held on the Front Street. The stock was held in the NP Stock Yards. They were either lead or drug out to the street, blindfolded, eared down until the cowboys got saddled & mounted up. The spectators sat on their cars.

In 1944 the rodeo was moved to the where it is still to this day. Post holes were dug by hand, lumber was acquired from local sawmills, and every able bodied man in the valley was recruited to help build the arena and facilities. Then the race track was built and then work began on the covered grandstands.

In 1946 the rodeo became a RCA sanctioned rodeo. Roy King was the first producer. Since then Jake Johnson, Big Bend, Zumwalt, Reg Kesler, Sonny Linger, and Ike Sankey have been producers for the rodeo. Most recently Duane Kesler has been putting on the rodeo for the last 23 years.

Bud Weaver was the announcer for the first rodeo. Since then the likes of Don Harrington and Bill Holt have announced. Will Rassmussen has done the announcing for the last 20 years.

Horses like Joe Lewis, Slantin Anne, Golden Pheasant, Trails End, Painted Smile, Moonshine, 3 Bars, Rodeo New, Alley Ways, Instant Request, Navajo Sun, Candy Smile, and Street Dance have been bucked out at the rodeo.

Some of the most renowned cowboys in the business have also graced the rodeo. Contestants such as Benny Reynolds, Deb Greenough, Dan Mortenson, Scott Breeding,

Other Great College Rodeo Programs

Missoula – University of Montana
Havre – Montana State University, Northern
Bozeman – Montana State University
Dillon – University of Montana, Western
Great Falls – University of Providence
Sheridan – Sheridan College
Casper, WY – Casper College
Miles City – Miles Community College
Powell, WY – Northwest College

Kevin Nordahl, Jack Nystrom, Jesse, Davis, Ryan Mapson, Rooster Reynolds, Rod Lyman, Fred Whitfield, Jess Martin, Clay Tryan, and Dustin Bird.

Performers Trixie McCormick, Donne Landess, Burt Davis, Timber Tuckness, & Flint Rassmussen have all been at the rodeo keeping the crowds entertained.

Cowboys, Contractors, Stock, & Performers are still only part of the makings of a great and sustaining rodeo. It takes a group of dedicated and reliable people every year to help with everything from program sales, advertisements, concessions, ground up keep, chute and livestock help, gate and ticket takers, and parade help to make that one day in July work. All those people who have helped and continue to this day to help can never be overlooked.

In 1992 the Drummond Kiwanis took over the running of the rodeo from the Drummond American Legion. The money raised at the rodeo has helped the Kiwanis to support local groups such as Special Olympics, Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls State, Hugh O'Brian Youth Camp, and Youth Swimming Lessons. It also has helped with local scholarships and with Operation Santa Clause which brings food and gifts to families before Christmas.

Over the last 45 years and especially the last 27 years the Kiwanis has helped to upgrade the facilities at the rodeo grounds. It is our hope to continue to keep the rodeo going and growing for another 75 years or longer with a little luck and a lot of help.

Montana Rodeo Families

Ranches that have contributed to the Montana western lifestyle

Dennis Tryan Family

First, I would like to say thank you Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame for selecting and honoring my family for this prestigious honor.



I accidentally started roping when I was 16 years old. Having been raised on a wheat farm in Northern Montana didn't exactly fit in with the rodeo or cowboy lifestyle. My parents, Bill & Mildred Tryan, were always willing to let us try new things so I'm grateful to them for their support. My mother had 3 brothers that were all in the horse business; Raymond & Echo Garberg were race horse people and Larry and Kenny Garberg roped. My Uncle Kenny and brother Rick Tryan invited me to ride along and watch them practice one night. When they were finished, they asked me if I would like to try it. Reluctantly, I accepted. I had ridden a lot as a child and played with a rope a little with my uncles but never had I seen anything like team roping. I was the heeler on my first run and somehow caught. From that point on, the love for team roping and rodeo has been a part of me and my family. My wife Pat, daughter Taylor, son's Matt, Clay, Travis and Brady are all involved in the sport in some way.

Starting at 16 left me with 2 years of high school rodeo. My Uncle Raymond and Aunt Echo, along with my Uncle Kenny always made sure I was entered and had horses to ride. Rodeo was so new to me so I know without them, none of this would have happened.

My senior year I was at a rodeo in Plentywood, MT where I saw Glen Hough, Phil Luman and Bill Parker. I had heard of them but never seen them in person. I knew they roped for a living so I studied everything they did from the trailers they pulled, the saddles they rode to their horses because in my mind, these guys were above anyone I had ever seen. From that day it was sealed; I was going to do this sport for a living. Roping did not come naturally for me so for sure there were a lot of struggles and setbacks. It was anything but easy. Fortunately, I had a lot of great people; Mom, Dad, Aunts and Uncles that helped me or it could have been different. I've traveled all over the United States competing in team roping and rodeos. I competed in Oklahoma City at the NFR in 1984 and son's Clay, Travis and Brady have also competed at the NFR multiple times.

From that very first steer at 16, I would have never dreamed we would have 30 NFR Qualifications and 3 World Titles in our family. We've been blessed.

Again, I would like to thank God, my family and friends, and the Montana Rodeo Hall of Fame for recognizing our family.



Pete & Aggie Stenger

Pete was born in Hermosa, South Dakota on the Stenger ranch in 1932. His father Cal was a well-known and respected cowboy who at the age of 14 helped trail 400 head of horses from Burns, Oregon to Rapid City, South Dakota. Pete grew up around cowboys and livestock in Timber Lake, South Dakota where his father managed the DZ Cattle Company. Upon being discharged from the Army in 1952 Pete moved to Billings, Montana where he met Aggie Schuck.

Aggie's family traveled from Oaks, North Dakota to several states working for various farms. Aggie grew up working in the fields topping beets, picking produce and hops alongside her brothers and sisters. In the early 1950's the family settled in Billings. Aggie and her mother became partners in the Billings Mattress Factory. During the day she worked with her mother and in the evening was a waitress where she met Pete.

Pete and Aggie lived on the Southside of Billings where they raised Bill, Calvin, Jim and Zane. They did their part as parents to instill their work ethic into the boys. Pete drove a dump truck during the week while Aggie started a seamstress business, upholstered furniture and started a catering business but mostly wrangled the boys. Most weekends and holidays they would all "load up" and head to Roy, Montana where Aggie's sister, Mary, and husband Buff, farmed and ranched. Bill preferred to spend most of the summer with Uncle Buff, not in town. What Bill wanted the other brothers did too.

Bill's friends competed in youth and high school rodeos. Naturally the other brothers became friends with them and had the same interests. Bill joined the Youth Rodeo Association and the Billings Youth Rodeo Club around 1976. As the other boys came of age they followed in Bill's footsteps and become members also. Calvin and Jim competed in bareback and bull riding while Zane competed in saddle bronc riding. Bill never competed but he pulled a lot of bull ropes and gates with Pete.

While the boys competed in youth rodeo's Pete held various positions such as rough stock director, arena director and chute boss. Aggie was a rodeo secretary, timer, president and secretary of different youth rodeo organizations. If someone needed to get to a rodeo Pete was the first to make sure they got there. That included hooking up to someone's horse trailer and taking them and their horse.

Raising four boys around rodeo, Pete and Aggie's house was the place to stop. You never knew who you would find sleeping in the living room some mornings. Aggie would cook, wash and patch clothes, sew horse blankets and break up fights. Pete used to say, "I don't know if I spent more time sorting boys or livestock." Those boys back then become men and world champions.

Aggie was a timer for NRA and Old Timer rodeos while Pete was in the arena pulling gates. He also competed in the bull riding in Round-up, Montana one year.

Although Pete passed in 2017 rodeo was and is an important part of Pete and Aggie's life. Calvin and his wife SueAnne, Jim and his wife Colleen, and Zane, are current or past members of the YRA, YCCA, National High School Rodeo Association, NIRA and NRA. Their granddaughter Bailee is a current member of the NRA and NIRA. The entire family takes pride in preserving the cowboy way of life and western heritage. Most importantly the life-long friends and memories made along the way.

The Stenger family thanks you.

Montana Rodeo Families

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Ranches that have contributed to the Montana western lifestyle

Dennis Harms Family

Dennis B. Harms was born in 1948 in Big Timber, MT. His parents, Charles J and Bernice Harms, an older sister and brother lived on Wheeler Creek north of Big Timber. In 1953 the family moved to the south fork of Willow Creek north of Livingston. Two brothers were born after that. Dennis always liked the cowboy side of ranching best. He took several horse projects in 4-H and always liked to rope. He raised and trained his calf roping horse.

Larry McComb helped Dennis and Jerry McCormick learn the art of roping. Larry had a small arena on 9th Street Island on the edge of Livingston. They would go there and practice roping calves Jerry's parents would take them to the High School Rodeos and the Little Britches Rodeos. Dennis took up bull dogging (steer wrestling) as well. He finished second in the calf roping and second in the bull dogging at the Montana High School Finals in 1967 and was the Reserve All Around Cowboy. He got to go to the National High School Rodeo Finals in Elko, Nevada to compete. After high school he attend Montana State College and was a member of the rodeo team. He competed in the Montana Rodeo Association and the Northern Rodeo Association.

In 1968 Dennis joined the Montana National Guards. After returning from basic training in June of 1969 he married his high school sweetheart, Billie Kaye Dennis. Together they went to work for Dennis' Dad on the Willow Creek Ranch. He continued to rodeo in the MRA and NRA. In 1971 their first son, Ryle was born. When they could get away they continued to rodeo across Montana. In 1974 their second son Ryan was born.

As the boys got older they started competing in the youth rodeos, YRA, YCCA, and Highwinds Rodeo Association. Dennis and Billie Kaye became involved in the Highwinds, as a director and secretary for many years. They later went on to hold high school rodeos in Livingston for several years. Then it was on to the High School Rodeos. Ryle competed in the calf roping, team roping and cutting. For two years he team roped with his brother, Ryan. They went to the National High School Rodeo Finals in Shawnee, OK in that event in 1991. Ryle had earned the title of MHSRA All Around Cowboy in 1991. He competed at Nationals in the calf roping and cutting as well. After high school graduation Ryle attended Montana State University and was a member of the MSU rodeo team. He was on the team when Montana State won the National College Rodeo Finals Title in 1995. Ryle graduated from MSU in 1995 with a degree in Range Science and a minor in Livestock Management. After college graduation Ryle went to work on the family ranch with his dad and grandfather and continued to rodeo in the NRA, and the PRCA, competing in calf roping and team roping. In 1999 he married Billie Bassett from Melstone, MT.



Billie competed in barrel racing. Ryle now had a traveling partner. He qualified for several NRA Finals. He qualified for the PRCA Circuit Finals in 2003 through 2009. In 2004 their daughter Chalee Ann was born. In 2008 Ryle, Billie and Chalee moved 40 miles south of Miles City, MT on Pumpkin Creek. They are the owners/operators of FT Land and Cattle. After moving to Miles City they became active members of Miles City Ranch Rodeo Committee. Ryle became a participant, stock contractor, a director and now is the president of the organization. Billie helps time the events. Once Chalee started to rodeo, Ryle became a director and president of the Youth Rodeo Association. (YRA). He is a state high school rodeo director as well.

Ryle is now competing in steer roping and has made it to the Steer Roping finals the last three years.

Billie remains active in rodeo as the Media/ Cash Calendar Coordinator for the PRCA in Montana. She is the secretary for the Montana Junior High Rodeo Association.

Ryan also competed in the high school rodeo calf roping, team roping, steer wrestling and cutting. He won the MHSR Finals calf roping title in 1992 and 1993. He earned the All Around High School Rodeo Cowboy title in 1993. He competed in the national finals in both Shawnee, OK and Gillette WY. Ryan also went to MSU after graduation. He continued to rodeo in the NRA and the PRCA and made it to the finals several times. One of his biggest accomplishments was winning the calf roping at the PRCA Livingston Roundup. Ryan married Antoinette Mangini of Clyde Park, MT in 2003. Antoinette competed in barrel racing and now competes in the National Reined Horse Association. Ryan is the Under Ground Foreman for Park Electric Cooperative in Livingston. Chalee has been riding horses since she was 4 years old. Probably started the rodeo circuit about that time. She has won several all around titles in the YRA as well as individual event titles. She has competed in the Little Britches Rodeo and went to the national finals two years in row in Guthrie, OK. She earned the title of Junior High Rodeo All Around Cowgirl in 2018. Went to the National finals in Huron, SD.

She just completed her freshman year in high school. She competes in barrels, poles, breakaway, goat tying, team roping, cutting and reined cow horse. She was named the 2019 Montana High School Rodeo All Around Cowgirl. She went to Rock Springs, WY. for nationals. She is also a member of the NRA, competing in barrel races and breakaway roping. She also active in 4-H and FFA.



BILLIE, CHALEE, and RYLE HARMS



RYAN and ANTOINETTE HARMS

Montana Rodeo Families

Ranches that have contributed to the Montana western lifestyle

Newman Family

Rodeo runs deep in the Newman Rodeo Company blood! It actually started when Rodney was young. Albert Newman had bucking horses and that is where Rodney's love for the sport started. Rodney rode bucking horses in his younger years. After starting a family he went to work as a pickup man for Go Rodeo Co. (Ed Grebe) and then Dale Small for years. All of Rodney and Marsha's boys rodeoed but they especially excelled in riding bucking horses. Rodney and Marsha purchased the rodeo company from Dale Small in the early 1990's. It was definitely a family affair and that is exactly what they wanted when they purchased it. Their oldest son Sid Newman ran the bull program. He raised his own bulls and made sure he had a good set of bulls to go to the rodeos. Their other two sons Robert and TJ worked the rodeos as pickup men. Every weekend in the summers you would find the families at the rodeos including wives and all the grandkids. They were always helping the young rodeo kids out. On weekdays you could usually find the family and many up and coming rodeo competitors out in their arena. They would usually be bucking out stock and helping kids learn how to do it right.



When purchasing the rodeo company it came with a great set of stock. From that great stock they would go on to raise their own champion stock. Through the years Newman Rodeo Company would win many awards, including rodeos of the year, bareback horse of the year, saddle bronc of the year, and bull of the year in the NRA. They went to the NARC finals for many years.

In the early 2000's Newman's sold the NRA rodeo card, but that doesn't mean it left their blood. Sid and Robert still raise some bucking bulls. Robert and Jackie have two girls Stephanie and Mandy, who continue to rodeo today. They have been very successful, Steph was the NRA champion barrel racer in 2011, Mandy has qualified for the semi finals of The American in the breakaway roping coming up in March. TJ and Liane have four kids, Nevada, Shelby (JR Vezain), Sage, Siggen that still rodeo. They too have all been very successful in rodeo., Nevada was the Montana PRCA Bull Riding Champion in 2011 and PBR finals qualifier in 2016, Sage was the Montana State Saddle Bronc Champion and National Saddle Bronc Champion in 2016.

TJ and Sage still have some of the Newman Rodeo breeding in their bucking horses. They are still raising and haul bucking horses to amateur rodeos.

A black and white photograph of four women wearing cowboy hats and western-style clothing. They are all smiling and looking towards the right. The image is used as a background for the Montana Silversmiths advertisement.

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Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame Scholarship Recipients

2006

Haley Anderson • Glendive.....	\$3,000
Cody Flammond • Sidney.....	\$3,000
Whitney Gollehon • Fairfield.....	\$3,000
Sylvan LaCross • Red Lodge.....	\$3,000
Chad Marquardt • Kalispell.....	\$3,000
Parker Murnion • Jordan.....	\$3,000
Ashley Ouzts • Billings.....	\$3,000
Kristy Robison • Dodson.....	\$3,000
Dustin Wilson • Cut Bank.....	\$3,000
National High School Rodeo Association.....	\$3,000

2007

Tiffany Moullet • Huntley.....	\$3,000
Thomas Reiser • Townsend.....	\$3,000
Kayla Jorgenson • Belgrade.....	\$3,000
Jacob Foulger • Kinsey.....	\$3,000
Bailee Novotny • Helena.....	\$3,000
Colton Sargent • Huntley.....	\$3,000
Josie Davison • Miles City.....	\$3,000
Jake Keams • Melrose.....	\$3,000
Jacey Fortier • Laurel.....	\$3,000
Bridger Chambers • Stevensville.....	\$3,000
Mykayla M. Tatsey • Valier.....	\$3,000
Clayton Ahlgren • Grass Range.....	\$3,000

2008

Kayleen Searer • Sidney.....	\$3,000
Cassie Woosley • Clyde Park.....	\$3,000
Chelsey Lund • Lewistown.....	\$3,000
Annie Novotny • Helena.....	\$3,000
Layne Wiebe • Jefferson City.....	\$3,000
Lexy Rianda • Kalispell.....	\$3,000
Ben Ayre • Glendive.....	\$3,000
Jack Brown • Shelby.....	\$3,000
Jake Halmes • Cascade.....	\$3,000
Caleb Horner • Ramsey.....	\$3,000
Tim Sparing • Helena.....	\$3,000
Witt Williams • Broadus.....	\$3,000

2009

Lacey Davidson • Butte.....	\$3,000
Mariah Rys-Sikora • Missoula.....	\$3,000
Ronda DeCock • Colstrip.....	\$3,000
Stormy Fink • Billings.....	\$3,000
Chelsea Brown • Big Sandy.....	\$3,000
Charlie Hollenbeck • Billings.....	\$3,000
Robert Wagner • Browning.....	\$3,000
Luke Gee • Stanford.....	\$3,000
JD Harrell • Roy.....	\$3,000
Carol Peabody • Geraldine.....	\$3,000
Chase Redfield • Opheim.....	\$3,000
Jason Schaffer • Broadus.....	\$3,000
Leslie Furniss • Missoula.....	\$2,000
Carly Sykes • Choteau.....	\$1,000

2010

Tace Patten • Bozeman.....	\$3,000
Tory Logan • Miles City.....	\$3,000
Colt Gardner • Winnett.....	\$3,000
Duston Stephens • Corvallis.....	\$3,000
Ellie Hogue • Phillipsburg.....	\$3,000
Malia VandenBos • Valier.....	\$3,000
Matt Holmes • Cascade.....	\$3,000
Matt Triplett • Columbia Falls.....	\$3,000
Cierra Kunesh • Helena.....	\$3,000
Kelsey Lemon • Cornallis.....	\$3,000
Charlie Mack • Big Timber.....	\$3,000
Casey Waldhauser • Worden.....	\$3,000
Jourdan Han • Rudyard.....	\$2,000
Hanna Heckman • Choteau.....	\$1,000

2011

Justin Beschomer • Missoula.....	\$3,000
Parker Breeding • Edgar.....	\$3,000
Weston Brown • Big Sandy.....	\$3,000
Jaylin Garrison • Arlee.....	\$3,000
Kendall Green • Cohagen.....	\$3,000
Shaylee Hance • Circle.....	\$3,000
Tanner Hollenback • Dillon.....	\$3,000
Mandy Newman • Melstone.....	\$3,000
Nevada Newman • Melstone.....	\$3,000
Laine Patton • Bozeman.....	\$3,000
Lauren Reiser • Townsend.....	\$3,000
Emily Schall • Missoula.....	\$3,000
Jeana Wagner • Whitehall.....	\$1,000
Lorissa Harris • Shepherd.....	\$2,000

2012

Cille Patten • Bozeman.....	\$3,000
Hanna Heckman • Choteau.....	\$3,000
Jondie Rianda • Kalispell.....	\$3,000
Jackie Teague • Seeley Lake.....	\$3,000
Allison Wittkopp • Circle.....	\$3,000
Bree Dirks • Helena.....	\$3,000
Will Shirley • Conrad.....	\$3,000
Rye O'Neal • Valier.....	\$3,000
Austin Malek • Highwood.....	\$3,000
Dane Andreasen • Fort Benton.....	\$3,000
Shay Wacker • Melstone.....	\$3,000
Dustin Morigeau • Baker.....	\$3,000
Kaitlin Kolka • Forsyth.....	\$1,000
Mariah Rys-Sikora • Missoula.....	\$2,000

2013

Taylor Mydland • Joliet.....	\$3,000
Allie Novotny • Helena.....	\$3,000
Kooper Boff • Powell, WY.....	\$3,000
Charley Yeager • Choteau.....	\$3,000
Lacey Camp • Belgrade.....	\$3,000
Whitney Hillard • Miles City.....	\$3,000
Ben French • Pompeys Pillar.....	\$3,000
Lane Krutzfeldt • Powderville.....	\$3,000
Dakota Rice • Spirit Lake, ID.....	\$3,000
Sylvia Robertson • Whitehall.....	\$3,000
Gavin Schuman • Big Timber.....	\$3,000
Merle Young • Chinook.....	\$3,000
Kieran Potten • Bozeman.....	\$1,000
Alyson Grinestaff • Bozeman.....	\$2,000

2014

Bryer Davis • Sand Coulee.....	\$3,000
Rebecca Delaittre • Three Forks.....	\$3,000
Bailey Escott • Twin Bridges.....	\$3,000
Wyatt Foulger • Kinsey.....	\$3,000
Bailey Fruit • Ekalaka.....	\$3,000
Hanna Heckman • Choteau.....	\$3,000
Cody Maggie • Lame Deer.....	\$3,000
Kristine Paske • Drummond.....	\$3,000
Baylee Stratton • Bozeman.....	\$3,000
Cole Wagner • Valier.....	\$3,000
Tyler Weeding • Pompeys Pillar.....	\$3,000
Colton Weekes • Babb.....	\$3,000
Abigail Wilkerson • Wilsall.....	\$3,000
Laramie Pursley • Chinook.....	\$2,000
Kieran Patten • Bozeman.....	\$1,000

2015

Lyndi Anderson • Billings.....	\$3,000
Bryce Boff • Powell.....	\$3,000
Jimmy Heptner • Browning.....	\$3,000
Shayle Hildebrand • Joliet.....	\$3,000
Nicole Korte • Laurel.....	\$3,000
Levi Mydland • Joliet.....	\$3,000
Colby Ophus • Conrad.....	\$3,000
Kieran Patten • Bozeman.....	\$3,000
Will Powell • St. Ignatius.....	\$3,000
Cyrus Robertson • Whitehall.....	\$3,000
Madison Waters • Malta.....	\$3,000
Wrye Williams • Broadus.....	\$3,000
Jerilyn Wiseman • Baker.....	\$3,000
Darby Yeager • Choteau.....	\$3,000
Hanna Heckman • Choteau.....	\$2,000
Opal Harkins • Billings.....	\$1,000

2016

Trevor Clark • Brusett.....	\$3,000
Ty Everson • East Helena.....	\$3,000
Meagan Harris • Florence.....	\$3,000
Troy Kirkpatrick • Wise River.....	\$3,000
Jordan Lindsay • Bozeman.....	\$3,000
Morgan Link • Billings.....	\$3,000
Haven Meged • Miles City.....	\$3,000
Laramie Noble • Dillon.....	\$3,000
Tristan O'Neal • Valier.....	\$3,000
Tyler Robinson • Hardin.....	\$3,000
Brett See • Glasgow.....	\$3,000
Alexis Shipp • Miles City.....	\$3,000
Tawnie Tribby • Vaughn.....	\$3,000
LaTasha Wiefelich • Sidney.....	\$3,000
Opal Harkins • Billings.....	\$1,000
Lindsay Garpestad • Great Falls.....	\$2,000

2017

Houston Brown • Miles City.....	\$3,000
Colten Fisher • Shepherd.....	\$3,000
Briftyn Garrett • Butte.....	\$3,000
Dillon Hahnkamp • Melrose.....	\$3,000
Tara Hansen • Manhattan.....	\$3,000
Caydee Johnson • Manhattan.....	\$3,000
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Shawn Perking • Roberts.....	\$3,000
Bailee Stenger • Worden.....	\$3,000
Faith Tarter • Ashland.....	\$3,000
Hannah Vogel • Billings.....	\$3,000
Garrett Welch • Silesia.....	\$3,000
Sarai McCollum • Darby.....	\$2,000
Sierra Belvin • Reed Point.....	\$1,000

2018





Rachel Cutler • Bozeman.....	\$3,000
Garrett Duncan • Belgrade.....	\$3,000
Owen Gustafson • Browning.....	\$3,000
Will Heptner • Browning.....	\$3,000
Coby King • Dillon.....	\$3,000
Arena Plenty • Garryowen.....	\$3,000
Dylan Reid • Poplar.....	\$3,000
Kayla Schmiedeke • Stevensville.....	\$3,000
Hallie Sohr • Ronan.....	\$3,000
Jackson Stephens • Corvallis.....	\$3,000
Logan Thompson • Bozeman.....	\$3,000
Krissy VanderVort • Billings.....	\$3,000
Sierra Belvin • Reed Point.....	\$1,000
Kaitlyn Kolka • Forsyth.....	\$2,000






Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame Live Auction Items



**Ron Reed
Family**

LIVE AUCTION JANUARY 25, 2020

-  Two tickets to first performance of the 2020 National Finals Rodeo. Donated by Bob Ragsdale
-  Original Canvas from original scene 1989 Centennial Cattle Drive, William Rains artist. Donated by Judy Reed.
-  Winchester Model 94 .30-30 Carbine. Donated by Don and Dianne Cooper.
-  Silver Bit and Silver Spurs made by Ron Reed. Donated by Bill Williams

-  Original artwork by Sam Iddings. Donated by Sam Iddings
-  Bronze, "Cool Water" by Ron Jackson. Donated by Jay and Chrissy Linderman.
-  Ladies black wool vest with leather yokes and fox trim, made by Carol Sue Mapston. Donated by Lois Hill.
-  Silver Belly 200X Hat – American. Donated by Brent Jordan
-  Large cowhide, brown. Donated by family of Ron Reed.



Thank you to our 2020 Vendors

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