

The Cowboy Chronicle Extra

SPECIAL EDITION

• 2000 NDCHF Hall of Honorees Induction

• Published by the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame

2000 NDCHF Hall of Honorees Induction Program

- SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2000 •
Tjaden Terrace,
Medora, North Dakota

1 p.m. - Musical Entertainment

The Lardinois Family with Fiddlin' Johnny

1:30 p.m. - Introductions and Remarks

*Master of Ceremonies Phil Baird
Remarks by Gerard Baker,
Superintendent of the Chickasaw
National Recreation Area, Sulphur, Okla.*

Rodeo Honoree Introductions

by Winston Satran
Old Shep
Gene McCormick
Louie Pelissier
Fettig Brothers Rodeo

Ranching Honoree Introductions

by Gene Veeder
Ben Bird
Bill Follis
Ole Solberg
Eaton Brothers' Custer Trail Ranch

Special Achievement Honoree Introduction

by Jim Tescher and Tom Tescher
Home On The Range Champions' Ride

Arts & Entertainment Honoree Introduction

by Walter Piehl Jr.
Cy Taillon

Great Westerner Honoree Introduction

by Bob Schnell
Ray Schnell

Induction activities continue Sunday, August 6, 2 p.m., at the **Home On The Range Champions' Ride** at Sentinel Butte. NDCHF honorees will be introduced by Winston Bruce of the Calgary Stampede.

N.D. Cowboy Hall of Fame Inducts 11 Honorees in 2000

Seven men who have lived and portrayed the cowboy lifestyle, three entities that helped foster western character and one notable bucking horse compose the third round of North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame inductees.

Rodeo Honorees* include: Old Shep, Gene McCormick, Louie Pelissier and Fettig Brothers Rodeo. Ranching honorees include: Ben Bird, Bill Follis, Ole Solberg and Eaton Brothers' Custer Trail Ranch. Special Achievement honoree is the Home On The Range Champions' Ride, Arts and Entertainment honoree is Cy Taillon, and Great Westerner honoree is Ray Schnell.

The formal induction is Saturday, Aug. 5 with musical entertainment beginning at 1 p.m. and the free ceremony at 1:30 p.m.

Individuals must reserve their own tickets for the evening pitchfork fondue and Medora Musical, as well as the Ian Tyson concert (4:30 MDT). Tickets and motel information are available by calling 800-633-6721.

Saturday's pre-induction activities include a NDCHF Trustee's meeting at 10 a.m. MDT at Tjaden Terrace. Trustees will discuss 2001 categories and nominations.

Activities continue Sunday, Aug. 6 at 2 p.m. at the 44th Annual Home On The Range Champions' Ride, Sentinel Butte, where 2000 honorees will be introduced by Winston Bruce of the Calgary Stampede. For HOTR Champions' Ride tickets call 701-872-3745. (*See page 20.)

NDCHF Building Plans Approved



The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame Center of Western Heritage and Cultures: Native American, Ranching and Rodeo is destined to be a two-story, 13,800-square-foot building in downtown Medora. The
(Continued on page 20)

Rodeo

OLD SHEP

One of the most consistent saddle bronc horses of all time, 022 Old Shep, was born north of Wibaux, Mont., in 1964.

"I bought him from Bill Teeters as a two-year-old colt," says stock



contractor Bob Aber, Aber Rodeo Co., Beach. The sorrel gelding was among a group of horses Aber purchased from Teeters. "His mother was a big, white work horse and his daddy was a little sorrel Arabian stud," Bob says. "Bill didn't know what he had and I had no idea what I was getting either."

What Bob got was a saddle bronc horse chosen to buck in 15 consecutive National Finals Rodeos, from 1970 through '84. He was named top saddle bronc at the 1975 NFR, and was twice voted second best at the NFR. He also earned Home On The Range Champions' Ride "best bronc" honors five times.

Recalling Old Shep's start Bob says, "I tried him out a couple of times and then bucked him at a college rodeo in Fargo as a three-year-old. That's where he really bucked the first time."

Old Shep stood about 15 hands and weighed 1,200 pounds. Bob named him after the original owner's dog. Bob laughs and says, "Yep, that's really how he got his name." His full sister, Moon River, also earned a reputa-

tion as a solid saddle bronc horse.

Old Shep carried numerous cowboys to the pay window including Bobby Berger, Pearsall, Texas, at Cheyenne, Wyo., and Brad Gjermundson, Marshall, at Dickinson in 1977. That was Gjermundson's second-ever professional rodeo and he scored 80 points to win.

"Old Shep was the most well-known saddle bronc to come out of North Dakota in recent years," says Gjermundson, a four-time world champion. "He was as honest as could be. He was good in the chute and he'd start with a rear out almost every time. He bucked hard every time and you could win first, but he threw a lot of guys off because he kicked hard and was kind of droppy." He adds, "I had him two or three times at the NFR. He was one of my all-time favorite horses."

In a NDCHF nomination letter, Calgary Stampede Rodeo Manager Winston Bruce, called Old Shep "a solid campaigner."

Killdeer saddle bronc rider Rockie Kukla, agrees, saying, "If you rode him right you'd dang sure be in the money. If you didn't ride him right he'd throw you off." Kukla won the 1984 Champions' Ride short-go on Old Shep.

Six-time NFR qualifier Bud Pauley, Isabel, S.D., says, "Many a horse has bucked rank a few times and quit but not Old Shep. He was so good to ride. There was nothing phony about him." He adds, "In North Dakota and Montana there was probably more money won on him than on any other horse."

Pauley thinks Old Shep knew if his rider was a rookie. "He didn't try that hard if you were a kid, but if you were somebody who could ride he'd squat in the chute and mess with your mind a little bit."

Pauley wrote in a nomination letter, "It takes heart and the respect of the top bronc riders of each year to make it to the NFR. Old Shep earned this feat 15 times. This is

a big statement; for example, 25 bronc riders times 15 years equals 375 opinions."

He continues, "I had Old Shep five times. At the height of my career he bucked me off and the rest of the time I'm pretty sure I won first. My brother Bill made many first-place wins on him too."

He is convinced the best ride he's ever seen featured Doug Brown, Silverton, Ore., on Old Shep at the 1975 NFR. Brown scored 86 points.

Pauley writes, "I went to the NFR six times, from 1980 to '85. I would have liked to have had Old Shep in every round, every year. You didn't have to worry about Old Shep not bucking. He tried his hardest every time. He stood right there in the chute, as if to say, 'Get on kid and I'll

(Continued on page 3)

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(Old Shep, continued from page 2)

show you what a good one feels like.”

Pauley added a P.S., stating, “This letter came from my heart. I did it for Old Shep and no one else. That’s the way I feel about him. He was kind of a friend of mine—an honest friend.”

Old Shep eventually grew too old to continue his illustrious career. “Still, he always wanted to go along,” Bob says, “so we hauled him but didn’t buck him. We got to Sidney, Mont., one year and my son, Jeff, said ‘Well, why don’t you buck him? He’s feeling so good.’ We did. He bucked off Ed Lockwood, Miles City, Mont. That’s the last time he ever bucked and it was one of his best trips ever.”

Old Shep was put to sleep in 1995 and is buried on the Aber Ranch beneath a tombstone that reads simply, “Old Shep.”

GENE McCORMICK

Gene McCormick, Bismarck, was a respected rodeo cowboy, rancher, father, friend and helping hand. Born Jan. 27, 1926 in Bismarck, to Charles and Ruth (Madland) McCormick, he grew up with two brothers on a farm north of Menoken.

Even as a toddler, Gene liked to rope, using twine off the feed sacks. The first hard-twist rope he got was from his uncle, Lawrence Madland, in 1934. The new rope was much easier to throw and he practiced roping weeds, sunflowers, pigs, sheep and his friends until they were fed up with it. When the wild turkeys came in to roost on the windmill, Gene roped them too, pulling them down off of the windmill instead of shooting them.

Gene attended school in Menoken until the 11th grade when the school closed. He graduated from Bismarck High School in 1943 and served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to ‘46.

He participated in his first rodeo in 1943, entering the bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling and calf roping. Returning from the Navy, he continued to participate in rodeos but eventually quit roughstock events so he could stay in shape for ranching. Then, he participated mainly in calf roping, team roping and steer wrestling.

Gene won the North Dakota state calf roping championship in Dickinson in 1948 and

again in ‘55. He was the North Dakota state champion steer wrestler in 1953, ‘54 and ‘55. Bill Linderman, Rodeo Cowboys Association president, appointed Gene as RCA spokesman in North Dakota in ‘53.

The last rodeo Gene participated in was at the Bismarck Civic Center in 1969. Competing in steer wrestling, calf roping and team roping, he still made it to the pay window.

Gene was a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association gold card member, a member of the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association, and the National Cattlemen’s Association for 44 years.

Gene married Betty Small Swenson on November 8, 1952, at Wibaux, Mont. The couple has seven children: Patty (Tim) Mattson, Menoken; Peggy (Roman) K a u f f m a n , Bismarck; Pam (Keith) Fordahl, Bismarck; Vicky (Milo) Trusty, Bismarck; Linda (Don) Hawley, Palm Springs, Calif.;



Monte Swenson, Bismarck; and Gene Swenson, Dallas, Texas. They also have 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

“They used to kid Gene that he brought his own cheering section to the rodeo because he brought all the kids,” says his wife, Betty, Bismarck.

After he had basically quit riding rough stock, she says, “He must have decided to ride saddle bronc one particular day. I think it was in Medora. He came out of the chute sideways, really—he’d gotten one leg on the wrong side, and Cy Taillon announced, ‘Here comes that Irishman riding side saddle!’” She adds, “I can still remember it. He bucked off on his head.”

Gene always said he “never roped a calf except when he paid an entry fee.” Betty concurs, “He didn’t practice. Never did.”

For years, John Quilliam, Killdeer, was adamant about Gene team roping with him in the annual Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo. Quilliam would enter the duo, and then call Gene and inform him. Gene would laugh and say, “That darn ol’ John, I’ve got too much alfalfa down (to be gone rodeoing).” Still, his daughter, Peggy says, “We spent every 4th of July at rodeos in Killdeer and Dickinson.”


Peggy describes her dad as very quick witted. “He found humor in everything,” she says.

“He was man of very strong character. Dad taught us responsibility.” Remembering her first flat tire she says, “When I called and told my dad I had a flat tire he said ‘Well then you better change it.’ He made sure we learned life’s lessons.”

He also educated himself, Peggy says, “He read books, *U.S. News and World Report*, and *Newsweek* cover-to-cover.

Noting that Gene stood straight and tall she adds, “He couldn’t bear to see anyone slouch. We all respected him immensely, as did his peers.”

Gene was proud of his Irish heritage, his family and his cattle. “He dearly loved his ranch and land and **(Continued on page 4)**



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(McCormick, continued from page 3) took good care of everything.” Still, she says, “He was a very humble man.”

She concludes, “He had a rough exterior but a very soft heart.

“He always wanted to be a cowboy. He loved ranching and he loved rodeos. He was perfectly satisfied with his life because he did what he wanted to do.” Gene died July 31, 1996.

LOUIE PELISSIER

Louis Pelissier, better known as Louie, was born March 20, 1897, south of Medora on a ranch along Sully Creek. A son of George and Kate (Roberts) Pelissier, he was raised with two brothers and three sisters.

“I had very little schooling,” Louie wrote in “50 Years In The Saddle” Vol. 1. “My idea early in life was to be a cowboy instead of a college professor. When I was a small fry I looked up to Bill Chaloner (often pronounced “Chandler”) as a bronc rider and Bill Follis as a range hand and roper. They were the very best.”

At about age 15 Louie started working for Willis King’s horse outfit near Medora. “They gave me some pretty good training at handling wild horses,” Louis wrote. “When I was 17 I was breaking wild horses to ride.”

In the summer of 1916 Louie went to work for Doc Spear and Johnny Shreaves near Sheridan, Wyo. He recalled, “They gave me 19 broncs to ride and they would sure buck! It was what you’d call the ‘rough string.’ I felt real good about it in later years because I didn’t get bucked off one of

them.” He also worked two seasons for Bud Alderson in Wyoming before putting his bed on a horse and trailing back to Medora in 1917.

“My reason for coming back was to see the girl I later married—Laura Lebo,” Louie wrote. “About this time I worked for Hugh “Con” Short north of Medora.”

Louie returned to Wyoming to work for Phil Keffler on the Powder River. In 1918 he went to Miles City to enlist as a horse breaker at the Fort Keogh Remount Station but since they were filled up, he didn’t serve in the army.

He married Laura in 1918 and was pleased to claim a “good looking, extra-good cowgirl.”

That autumn Louie helped trail horses to Belle Fourche, laid over one day and headed back to Medora with two saddle horses and one “plumb raw” eight-year-old bronc. “On the way back my horses were so tired I saddled up the bronc at Bowman,” he wrote. “Of course he bucked and ran off, which is not the way to break a horse, but he still turned out to be pretty good...I pulled in at Chi Otto’s place at Bullion Butte that night, caught a fresh horse and loped 25 miles into Medora to see my son who was born while I was gone.”

Louie recalled breaking snaky horses for \$10 a head.

“Seemed like a pretty slow way to make money but we did it anyway.”

Louie worked for Ed Titus south of Medora in the winter of 1918-19. He returned to Willis King’s in the 1920s.

The couple had three children: Bernie (deceased,



his wife Blanche, currently of Dickinson); Elsie (John) Trotter, Cawston, British Columbia, Canada; and Marjorie (J.W.) Boulware, Miles City, Mont.

Unfortunately, Laura died in 1928. “From that time on my three children stayed with my mother to go to school, but would come to the ranch with me for vacations and in the summer.”

Elsie, recalls, “Our dad raised us on the ranch and furnished us with work, fun and a lot of love and caring. It was an upbringing to be envied.”

Louie’s granddaughter Laura Pelissier Griffin, Medora, says, “Louie had a great influence on his grandchildren—everything from the cowboy lifestyle to dancing. He sang ‘Strawberry Roan’ while he hauled us around the country feeding us pop and ice cream. We have very fond memories of him.”

Louie married Isabel Kennedy in 1931 and they had one daughter, Jean (E.O.) Jacobson, Billings, Mont.

Louie bought a ranch in 1931 and owned one somewhere along the Little Missouri River for the rest of his life. “I’m a better judge of horses than I am of cattle because I learned it earlier in life, but as a business, cattle are by far the best,” he wrote. “You don’t have to misrepresent them or lie to sell them.”

He continued, “I’ve spent my whole life handling wild horses. I’ve been bucked off, jumped on and punctured a lung with broken ribs, but got by lucky. I have never had a broken leg which is uncommon for my age, but my legs are all boogered up from horses falling on them and kicking me...I’ve been trapped a few times with a horse laying on me in the hills and he couldn’t get up. By uncinching your saddle from either side...he can get up and off of you.”

Louie rode bucking horses and roped at rodeos but claimed he was “not outstanding at either.” However, he was state calf roping champion numerous times.

He was best known in rodeo circles as a top-notch pickup man, starting in (Continued on page 5)

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(Pelissier, continued from page 4)

1916 and continuing into the '60s. He wrote, "Whatever you do, roping or picking up, some say your horse is half, but I'd say he's 80 percent."

Louie enjoyed team roping into the 1960s and wrote, "When a cowboy starts out he is generally a bronc rider. When he weakens a little he goes for roping. Maybe as he goes down he goes for bull dogging or starts picking up. When he drops from that he starts riding cutting horses. Babysitting would be next. The ending of a real cowboy is tending bar or herding sheep."

Louie wasn't a big operator but he made a living in the cattle business for many years. "Sagebrush and cottonseed cake have saved my business a good many times. The '30s were pretty rough going but we made it anyway." He learned that range cattle in sheltered brush country can live on three or four pounds of 40-percent protein daily and make it through most winters. He wrote, in typical Louie fashion, "A county agent would tell you to feed them one pound, but maybe he never owned a cow."

Louie is remembered for his positive influence on young cowboys, for the quality horses he sold, and the funny stories he told. He became a charter member of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Okla., in 1959.

He concluded, "If I had my life to live over I'd do pretty much the same things. I would perhaps try to ranch in a little bigger way, but live about the same kind of life...I have some nice grandchildren that I think a lot of. I would prefer seeing my grandsons

grow up to be cowboys rather than bankers."

The highly respected, clean-living, working cowboy and cattle rancher died of cancer on Jan. 14, 1970.

FETTIG BROTHERS RODEO

The Fettig brothers—Tony, Jack, Nick, Ray and Phil—sons of Jacob and Theresa (Rohrick) Fettig, started raising bucking horses and contracting rodeos in the 1940s. Known as Fettig Brothers Rodeo, the company was owned and operated by the brothers and their sister, Monica Hovden.

Fettigs produced rodeos in North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana, and furnished horses for the Days of '76 Rodeo in Deadwood, S.D., the Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, Wyo., and the World's Fair Rodeo in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Fettigs raised remount horses for the U.S. Cavalry and built their herd using old cavalry horses, government stallions and in later years, top horses from area ranches, the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale. They contracted the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo and the *Killdeer Herald* once wrote, "a good many horses furnished by Fettigs have never been ridden to the finish by any rider."

In the 1950s Fettigs purchased a Montana rodeo outfit owned by Margie Greenough and Joe Ore. Phil also added Brahman bulls and roping calves and Mexican steers, and became approved as a Rodeo Cowboys Association stock contactor.

The bucking horses ran on the family farm and another purchased ranch near the Lost Bridge, both north of Killdeer.

They produced 20 to 25 rodeos per season. Phil and Nick worked as pickup men, Jack was flankman, Ray was chute boss and hauled the stock while Monica handled secretarial duties and designed the company's



matching rodeo fashions. Tony and his family did trick roping and he served as a pickup man at several area rodeos. In addition to producing rodeos, the Fettigs participated in various rodeo events for many years.

Phil began constructing a new Killdeer rodeo arena at its present site south of town in 1956.

Fettigs were among stock contractors present at the first National Finals Rodeo in Dallas in 1959. They had stock selected to the NFR for most of the next two decades.

Fettigs had more stock at the NFR than any other contractor in 1963 and '64 and Bear Den was the top NFR bareback horse those two years.

Nick was the first brother to own bucking horses. When Nick entered the Navy, he sold them to Phil. After Phil's death in an automobile accident in 1960, Jack bought the company and renamed it Fettig Rodeo. He continued promoting and producing rodeos throughout the Midwest until 1976.

Jack, his brother, Ray, and Phil's son, LeRoy, have kept the stock contracting business operating for more than 60 years. Fettigs continue breeding bucking horses and with the assistance of Lynn Linseth, Killdeer, provide horses to about 15 North Dakota Rodeo Association and Roughrider Rodeo Association rodeos per year.

"Jack is still raising horses and people still comment about how they enjoy seeing those horses in the Lost Bridge area of the Badlands," says Tony's daughter, Lynell Sandvick, Killdeer.

"Ray was usually the horse trailing boss, as I remember it," says LeRoy Fettig, Dickinson. "Ray, Gary
(Continued on page 6)

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(Fettigs, continued from page 5)

Lawhead and I trailed about 150 horses from Killdeer to New Town for the rodeo in 1957; from Killdeer to the Blue Buttes north of Mandaree, to the Four Bears Bridge. That was the last time we trailed horses a great distance for a rodeo. I can still remember the thrill of taking those horses across the bridge; it was bouncing from the cadence of the trotting horses.”

While that was the last time horses were trailed a great distance, Sandvick adds, “For a number of years, as late as the 1970s, we still trailed horses into Killdeer and back out.”

“My dad loved rodeo and great bucking horses,” LeRoy says. “He was an innovator and worked hard to improve the rodeo company.”

Fettigs searched constantly for good bucking horses. Some of their great horses included: Figure Four, Funeral Wagon, Spur Dodger, Red Pepper, Bear Den, Steel Dust, Hobby Horse, Killdeer Mountain and Reservation Red.

“I think the biggest enjoyment I’ve had was the fact I had bucking horses known all over the world,” says Jack, Killdeer. “For two years in a row I had more total stock in rodeos than any other contractor in the U.S. and all the stock had a good name.”

Fettigs added class to rodeo with grand entries and parade routines that included matched horses and parade outfits, as well as colorful, matched shirts for rodeo workers. Leroy notes, “My mother would wash and iron 30 or 40 shirts after each rodeo, without an automatic washer and dryer.”

Jack says, “We tried to get all of our

horses and outfits to match. There were glittery metallic outfits in green, gold, red, black and purple. We also had shirts and eight pairs of parade chaps for each color. Initially, we tried to get solid black horses but we only found three, so we had to use black horses with white socks. The horses we used in parades and the grand entry were matched buckskins and then later two matching appaloosas.”

Pointing toward the Fettig family’s years of rodeo involvement, friend and rodeo supporter Cleo Veeder, Killdeer, assures, “It’s a good, old-time rodeo outfit. They’re good guys and they put on good rodeos with plenty of top-notch bucking stock.”

Ranching

BEN BIRD

Benton C. Bird was born in Denison, Texas, on Dec. 7, 1864, to John and Dovie Bird, who had moved there from Virginia.

“In 1881 I started my career as a cowboy in earnest and went to work for Adair and Goodnight on their JA Ranch in the Palo Duro Canyon,” Ben said in an account recorded by Al Buckli. This was his first association with celebrated “Steeldust” ponies and he said, “They were sure tough enough, and stout as the devil’s right hand on the end of a rope.” Ben stayed with the JA for three years.

He made his first trip north in 1883, trailing a herd of 2,800 mossy-horned steers. “We delivered them near the mouth of the Missouri about 125 miles north of Miles City, Mont. We

helped gather some beef that fall then got a train ride to Chicago with the beef...The commission firm gave us passes back to Texas.” There, Ben and another young man rode further south where they picked cotton and bet on weekend

horse races. “It (betting) paid off better than cowpunching and we sure had a lot of fun,” he said.

In 1885 Ben trailed horses



north for the Hashknife outfit in eastern Montana. In 1886 he trailed steers north for the OX outfit, returning to Texas again that fall. “I guess it was lucky I did for the winter of 1886-87 was the granddaddy of all winters.”

In the spring of ‘87 Ben trailed a herd of remittance steers north for the government, destined for Fort Pierre, S.D. “For some reason the government didn’t take the steers and our company sold them to the Long X outfit, the Reynolds Bros., Dakota Territory,” he said.

Ben made his last trip north in the spring of 1892 when former schoolmates Bob Wilcox and Wilse Richards asked him to help move a herd of 3,400 steers to a new-found haven of grass in Dakota Territory near the Killdeer Mountains. “We loaded the cattle in Amarillo, Texas, and shipped them and our remuda to Orin Junction, Wyo.,” he said. “From there we trailed them to the Killdeer Mountains, to the ranch later known as the Diamond C.”

Ben noted some of the biggest trail drive worries: a lack of water, dust storms, thunder storms, tornadoes, rustlers and constant mirages over desert country which made drovers doubt their senses. In a story written by Helen Clark and printed in *Old West* magazine (Fall 1980), Ben said, “One day I was riding for two hours toward a herd that seemed only a few hours ride away. I thought to myself, ‘I’ll just go check on whose herd that is.’ As I was riding toward it, the whole herd vanished. I felt mighty foolish.” The scarcity of water formed other mirages; Ben said sometimes there seemed to be a sea of water with
(Continued on page 7)

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(Bird, continued from page 6)

huge ships sailing on the waves.

He and Tim Randall soon started dealing in horses near the Killdeer Mountains. "We bought 100 head to start with—just raw broncs from Montana," he said. "A few homesteaders were already showing up so we had no trouble selling them. We moved this bunch into the vicinity of Taylor at prices from \$60 to \$100, which gave us a nice profit."

Ben began managing the Riverside Horse Ranch southwest of Mandan in the fall of 1893. "I had no investment in these horses but was to manage 3,800 and sell the surplus horses on a commission basis." The Riverside also ran about 30,000 sheep, 15,000 cattle and 800 registered Percheron horses. Ben stayed at the Riverside for seven years. "I cleaned up the last of the Riverside Ranch horses in 1899," he said. "We trailed 2,730 over to the Turtle Mountains and sold small lots to the newly located homesteaders."

Ben married Ida Connelly at Riverside in 1896 and they moved to California because of Ida's poor health. "I got a job driving a stagecoach from Raymond to Yosemite Valley, some 65 miles. My wife's health was not improving and we both wanted to get back to North Dakota, so in 1905 we journeyed back to New Salem," where Ben had left 50 horses with Steve Weekes. Upon their return Birds purchased the Jack Watson ranch and set up a livery stable at New Salem, and later in Almont and Carson. He also helped locate land and livestock. "Settling the settlers in this country was a big thing for him," recalls his grandson Jim Bird,

Killdeer. "His trail trips were good, but helping the settlers gave him more pleasure."

Ben and Ida had six children, all deceased: Robert, Verna, Earl, William, Edith, Gladys. Ida died of gangrene in 1917 and was the first person buried in the Almont cemetery. Ben lived in the Medora community for many years.

The highly skilled horseman was known for sitting tall and straight in the saddle. He took part in rodeos as a steer roper and also won fame in horse racing. He won his last tie-down calf roping title at the age of 75 and his last major steer roping contest at Miles City when he was 77.

Ben raced and traded horses at county fairs and powwows and followed horse racing for decades. One of his biggest thrills was receiving an International Racing Association lifetime recognition trophy at Phoenix, Ariz., in 1959.

He was a member of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Cody International Cowboys Association, the Old Trail Drivers of Texas and the Range Riders Association of Montana. Ben served 25 years as a Stock Protective Association undercover agent and also as a deputy sheriff.

A quiet and direct man known for his kindness, humility, fairness and honesty, Ben was also noted for his great sense of humor. Jim says, "Grandpa had good eyesight. One time we were out riding and he said, 'See that deer.' (Despite his effort in pointing it out) I couldn't see it so finally he shot and it came tumbling down. He asked, 'Now do you see it?'"

Ben said of his life, "Men cared about each other in my day. The good of one was the good of all. We pulled together because times were hard... we also knew how to rely on our own resources. Hardship makes for backbone."

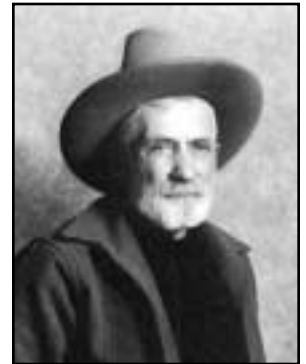
Ben died at the Beach hospital on April 1, 1962, and is buried in the Almont Cemetery.

BILL FOLLIS

James William Follis, known always as Bill, was born March 19, 1865 on a ranch near Stevensville*, Texas. His parents were W.J. and Mary (Hudges) Follis. His father served as a Confederate Army cavalryman during the Civil War.

When Bill was seven his family left

Texas, trailing their cattle to Trinidad, Colo. Young as he was, Bill rode herd as though he were a grown man. He left



home at 15 and worked in New Mexico for two years. There he heard cowboys tell of the "Three Seven" outfit in eastern Montana and western North Dakota. In 1883, Bill took a train to the town of Keith, about a mile and a quarter east of what is now Wibaux, Mont.

Bill was hired by the 777 outfit, owned by the Berry-Boyce Cattle Company of Texas. He was promoted to foreman in 1884 at a salary of \$175 a month and was also a "rep," having the authority and responsibility for buying and receiving company cattle.

Many Texas cattle were purchased for the 777 in the 1880s and the next and biggest job was getting them to home range. These cattle were trailed the length of the Chilsom Trail, about 1,500 miles. It took nearly five months to complete the trip. In 1888 the 777 outfit and others began shipping cattle part way and trailing them only about 400 miles. Even the shorter trip required a month.

With Bill as foreman, the 777 ran about 30,000 head a year from 1888 to 1898. Old timers attested to Bill's abilities and he enjoyed a reputation as a superb roper, even when he

(Continued on page 8)



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(Follis, continued from page 7)

reached an advanced age.

According to a biography by his granddaughter, Mary McDonald Victory, the 777 offered hands an opportunity to invest their earnings in cattle and then run them with the outfit at no charge. Bill admired this idea but because he loved good times and poker games, he never seemed to have enough money for cattle. In later years he recalled that a frugal cowhand took advantage of the offer and when the 777 closed out, sold his cattle for \$28,000. McDonald Victory wrote, "My grandfather would laugh and end the story by telling that he himself ended up *owing* the company \$250!"

Hands who worked for Bill at one time or another included Tater Legs Jones, J.A. Van Egan, Plug Plunkett, Bill Moss, Al Sears, John Leakey, Johnny Moats and a cook named Dutch Louie.

Men whom Bill knew and respected included: Charley Bahn, Six-Shooter Slim Gunkle, Harve Robinson, Chris Rasmussen, Joe Meyers, Dan Connell, John Hanson, Hugh "Con" Short and Norman Findahl. He counted Howard Eaton—who initiated the Custer Trail Ranch—one of his lifelong friends.

Bill worked with Teddy Roosevelt in the big roundup of 1884. When Roosevelt lost most of his herd in the bad winter of 1886-87 he decided to quit ranching. Surviving cattle were placed in charge of a hand and arrangements were made to run them with the 777 outfit.

The 777 closed out its holdings in 1898. Bill helped round up and ship 6,500 cattle in 13 trainloads.

He had purchased his first ranch in 1897 and when the 777 closed out he began ranching 20 miles south of Medora. The ranch was located near a bend in the Little Missouri River known as the Little Ox-Bow, for which the ranch was named. Bill used "OX" as his cattle brand and a "Lazy 7" for horses. He later changed his cattle brand to "reverse FN connected." He bought two other ranches nearby and eventually ran about 1,000 cattle.

He also served two terms as Billings County sheriff, from 1899 to 1903. At that time, Billings County included what are now Golden Valley and Slope Counties. Bill scoffed at those who thought the West was really wild and wooly, saying he only remembered one gun battle during his whole term as sheriff.

Bill owned a team of white horses named Pud and Charley, noted for their ability to swim the Little Missouri which could become a high and raging torrent. One of his favorite saddle horses was a bay named Major.

Bill said he owed his life to Charley as he recalled a wagon wreck in the fall of 1904. While hauling winter supplies to the ranch in a three-box wagon, Charley was the "wheel" in a six-horse hitch, of which one-fifth was young and green-broke. One horse spooked, frightening the others. Amidst the ensuing tangle, the wagon began to tip and Bill jumped from his seat to save himself and broke his leg. Meanwhile Charley planted himself to keep the entourage from running. Eventually, Bill was able to untangle the horses by cutting reins with his jack knife. He maneuvered himself onto Charley's back from a sidehill and rode across the river and up to the ranch house door.

Bill sold his last ranch on Bullion Creek in 1928. He moved to Dickinson, but when the stock market crashed in 1929, he headed west for another eight years of ranching.

Bill had married Mary

Powers in 1888 in Wibaux. Two sons and four daughters were born of this union with one son and one daughter dying in infancy. Mary died in 1897. Bill built a rock house on Bullion Butte as a summer home, sharing it with his second wife, Mary "Mayme" Lebo.

Bill died on Nov. 15, 1950. He was laid to rest in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Dickinson.

(*Editor's note: May be Stephenville.)

OLE SOLBERG

Ole Solberg was born Sept. 28, 1914 on his family's Benson County homestead, 11 miles south of York. The 10th child of Norwegian immigrants, Christ and Rakkell (Dockset) Solberg, he grew up with six brothers and four sisters.

His mother died in 1916 and Ole lived with his uncle in South Dakota from 1916-18. He returned to North Dakota, graduating from Baker High School in 1932, where he was a successful student and baseball player. He attended North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo, majoring in animal husbandry, and returned home to pursue ranching.

Ole went to the West Coast in the mid-1930s, working variously on a dairy farm, cattle ranch and sheep ranch. He returned home, having learned the grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence.

He bought the family homestead from his father in 1939. In the ensuing years he experimented with raising Poland China pigs and Angus cattle to support his interest in saddle horses.

Ole's lifelong influence on the region's recreational horse industry began in earnest in the mid-'40s. He committed to developing a consistent Palomino strain in his herd and worked tirelessly to raise and promote quality saddle horses, regardless of color.

He became widely known as an accomplished horseman, astute horse trader and excellent judge of horses.

Many youngsters had their first horseback ride and bought their first
(Continued on page 9)



(Solberg, continued from page 8)

horse at the Solberg ranch. Ole firmly believed every child should have a horse by which to learn responsibility, respect and patience. Glenn B. Johnson, Jamestown, notes, "When Ole had children of his own they learned to ride a horse before they could walk."

Once, a young girl talked her parents into visiting the ranch "just to look," as she hadn't yet saved enough money to buy her own horse. Not surprisingly, Ole swiftly sold them one of his best horses on a payment plan of \$13 per month, and for at least \$100 less than the horse was worth.

Another example is Kindra Johnson Guty, Knox, who learned to ride on a very gentle, older horse her parents bought from Ole. When the horse died of old age two years later, he delivered a new horse at no charge.

Julie Tollefson, Minnewaukan, got both her first pony, Lucky, and her first horse, Bonnie, from Ole. "He could always find just the right horse for the right person," Julie says. Her older sister, Jean Johnson, Grand Forks, recalls Ole taught them to be cautious and alert around horses. Jean says, "I always remember his words of advice and still use it today when I am handling a horse."

In 1966, Ole became one of the first participating members of the North Dakota Equine Ranchers Association. He participated in the North Dakota State Championship Horse Show Association in Rugby for nearly three decades. He and his palomino mare, Goldsinger, won the barrel racing numerous years. He rode in Pony Express commemorative mail rides from Fort Totten to Fort Stevenson in

recent years and was an American Quarter Horse Association member.

Jim Schmidt, Goodlettsville, Tenn., worked for Ole after his own father died in 1948, and says, "Ole became a big part of my life. I went to work on the ranch and it was a dream come true for a young boy. Ole taught me how to grow up."



FARGO FORUM

James Solberg, Danville, Calif., describes his uncle as honest, straightforward, self-reliant and generous to a fault—especially to those less fortunate. "Add to this his respect for all of nature—and especially for the animals his livelihood depended on—and you have the incarnation of the ideal cowboy."

Tom Farrington, Chadron Neb., also worked for Ole and recalls a lesson learned. Tired after a long day, Tom slumped in his saddle as he and Ole rode back to the ranch. Tom says, "Ole launched into a lesson saying 'Your posture in the saddle is a manifestation of your pride in your horse and your riding abilities. In the future I expect you to display pride by your correct posture.'" Tom assures, "I did."

Probably in the early 1950s, Ole assembled a crew to move loose hay into the barn. With loose wits and young tongues, the crew chided Ole about his advancing age—he was probably approaching 40. Tom explains, "He announced, 'For ten cents I'd show you young fools who is too old.'"

One of the wits took out a dime and flipped it toward Ole, whereupon he leaped toward the hayfork rope, climbed it hand-over-hand until he reached the barn peak, then let himself down the rope in the same manner, all without pausing for breath. No more

was said about the ravages of age."

Ole married Shirley Burke of Leeds, a notable equestrienne in her own right, on Aug. 4, 1962 in Fargo. They have three daughters: Suzanne (Al) Walford, Elko, Minn., Roxanne (Kurt) Gillespie, York, and Judy (Tom) Freund, Cando, and three grandsons. Shirley suffered a brain tumor in 1977, and Ole lovingly cared for her without complaint for more than 20 years.

"As early as I can remember, people told me what a great man our dad was," Suzanne says. "He had a gift for seeing the best side of people and bringing out the best in them. Dad put on a lot of miles and drank countless cups of coffee in little cafes and ranch kitchens around the state while doing horse deals."

Noting that Ole had his priorities right, Suzanne adds, "He *lived* the golden rule. People adored him for his charm and cowboy style.

"I watched him wrangle Badlands horses and Colorado mustangs that had never been halter broke, and ride and show well-bred stock of all breeds. He was the people's cowboy."

Ole had major cancer surgery in 1987. Six months later an acquaintance told Suzanne they'd seen Ole at a horse sale and thought he was recovering well. She agreed and the acquaintance said, "He jumped right up on that horse he was selling!" When Suzanne didn't react as emphatically as expected the acquaintance exclaimed, "He was *standing* on the horse!" This was at age 73.

Ole continued that stunt periodically until he died March 17, 1999 at age 84.

EATON BROTHERS' CUSTER TRAIL RANCH

Howard Eaton left Pittsburgh, Penn., in 1868, seeking the romantic life of which western legends are made. He squatted on land in the Missouri River breaks near Medora in 1879. His brother, Alden, arrived in 1881 and his brother, Willis, in 1882.

The trio established separate ranches but consolidated in 1883 on a ranch **(Continued on page 10)**



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(Eatons, continued from page 9)

five miles south of Medora on both sides of the Little Missouri River. Initially they made their living furnishing wild game for railway work gangs and putting up hay for the nearby army post, all the while building herds of cattle and horses.

Ranchers could be counted on to offer a hot meal and to bunk anyone caught on the trail at dusk. Even so, the Eaton Brothers were more hospitable than most, according to "The Ranchers," written by the Editors of Time-Life Books. The Eatons welcomed neighbors as well as a stream of visitors recruited on trips back East.

No guest paid for his keep until 1882 when one dude, said to be Bert Rumsey, Buffalo, N.Y., desired to postpone his departure and arranged to stay on for the price of his board and the use of a horse. The Eatons reluctantly accepted, thus initiating the first dude ranch in the United States. Soon, paying guests produced more profit than stock. Eatons named their operation the Custer Trail Ranch because General George Armstrong Custer camped near the ranch's Davis Creek on the way to Custer's Last Stand.

Early accommodations were modest. Guests slept several to a bed or on the floor and paid as little as \$25 per month. They were paying for the opportunity to live in small, sod-roofed log cabins or tents, to participate in ranch life and to enjoy pure air and open space.

Still, the Eaton Brothers continued to raise stock—even playing a hand in establishing the noted Logging Camp

Ranch. However, the deadly winter of '86-87 wiped out an estimated 85 percent of Badlands herds. That same year the Custer Trail ranch home burned to the ground. The only financial salvation came from dude guests.

In 1904 Eatons moved their operation to Wolf, Wyo., in the Big Horn Mountains near Sheridan. It became one of the best known dude ranches in the country and served as an authentic background for activities and entertainment designed for a tenderfoot's taste and capability.

Howard Eaton helped organize the Little Missouri stockmen into an association, according to the Feb. 7, 1884 issue of *Bad Lands Cow Boy*. He later became a trail guide and the Howard



Eaton Trail in Yellowstone National Park is named for him. Howard died in 1922 while Willis died in 1929 and Alden in 1937.

History indicates that after the Eatons left North Dakota, "Badlands Bill" McCarty bought portions of the Custer Trail Ranch in 1910 and 1917. Billings County records show the U.S. government sold part of the Custer Trail Ranch in Section 10 (Township 139, Range 102) to Mary Naurath in 1919. It sold, in turn, to John Testor in 1920 and to McCarty in 1921.

McCarty sold the buildings and land on the east side of the Little Missouri River, totaling 2,878 acres, to R.S. "Dick" Johnson, in 1931. It is believed the operation went bankrupt during the Depression.

Meanwhile, McCarty built a new place on his land west of the Little Missouri River, also part of the original Custer Trail Ranch. McCarty occupied that land until selling to Adolph Burkhardt in 1947. Tom Tescher later purchased it from Burkhardt and Tescher's son, Perry, currently owns the land.


A group of area Lutheran churches rented the east side of the ranch as a camp for several years. After much deliberation, Badlands Bible Camp Corporation—consisting mostly of church laymen from Amidon, Beach, Bowman, New England, Marshall and Taylor—purchased the ranch in 1945, from the Bank of Dickinson which had held it in receivership.

Though Eatons had moved on, Dude ranching was attempted again in the 1920s. "I understand that's when our log lodge was built," says Lowell Krogstad, current Badlands Bible Camp director.

The corporation continued to host bible camps while renting most of the ranch to Walt Christensen. On Sept. 25, 1948 they sold most of the land, about 860 acres, to Christensen, retaining just 39 acres for the camp. Badlands Bible Camp is now in its 68th year of operation.

Eventually, Christensen sold his land to Fred Luchsinger. Tom Adams purchased it from Luchsinger in 1972. Adams still owns and lives on the ranch east of the Little Missouri River and beside the Bible camp.

(Biographies continue on page 11)



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Special Achievement

HOME ON THE RANGE CHAMPIONS' RIDE MATCH

Generations of families have traveled across North Dakota for an afternoon of top saddle bronc riding action at the Home On The Range Champions' Ride Match, Sentinel Butte. The rodeo is celebrating its 44th year benefiting boys and girls living at HOTR.

Father Elwood Cassidy established the ranch in 1950 as a home for neglected and homeless boys. Today, the residential child-care facility serves disadvantaged, neglected, problematic, pre-delinquent and delinquent youth, up to 79 at one time. HOTR also has facilities at Glendive, Mont., and Fargo.

The HOTR Champions' Ride was born when professional rodeo cowboys and brothers, Jim Tescher and Tom Tescher, proposed the match to Father William Fahlander, parish priest in Sentinel Butte who later became HOTR Superintendent. They saw it as a way to help defray the costs of operating and upgrading the nonprofit facility.

Ray Schnell and his sons, Raymond and Willard, managed the event. Announcer Cy Taillon reported scores on bucking stock provided by Harley Roth, Jim Madden, Fettig Brothers and John Steen. Others who helped with the first match included: Ed Doherty, Dick Law, Bill Martin, Alvin Nelson and Harley Roth.

It was cold, damp and windy during the first rodeo in May 1957. A favorite memory is that world champion saddle bronc rider Deb Copenhaver used scrap lumber from chute construction to build a fire behind the chutes, in an effort to stave off the cold. Alvin Nelson, a soon-to-be world champion, won the rodeo.

Champions' Ride has been held the first Sunday in August since 1961. It remains one of the few saddle bronc matches in the nation. Each year, the natural arena setting awakens with rich rodeo tradition as notable cowboys and up-and-coming rookies are invited to participate on top bucking

stock. Each rider is assured two rides with leading scorers competing in the final round, featuring the top saddle broncs.

"The match concept allows spectators to see 20 of the world's greatest bronc riders on the best horses at one event," says Willard Schnell, Dickinson. "Elsewhere you'd have to attend five or ten rodeo performances to see anywhere near that many good bronc rides."

The opportunity to draw quality saddle broncs and benefit youths attracts professional cowboys to Champions' Ride. Every world champion saddle bronc rider except Monty



Henson has ridden at HOTR. A partial list of match champions includes: Alvin Nelson, Duane Howard,

Pete Fredericks, Jim Tescher, Brad Gjermundson, Robert Etbauer, Dan Mortensen and Ty Murray. Jim Tescher has the most championships with four. Rod Hay and Glen O'Neill are the reigning champions, splitting first place in 1999.

The best horses provided by stock contractors across North America have bucked at Champions' Ride for 43 years. A partial list of participating contractors includes: Fettig Brothers, Harley Roth, Jim Madden, Oral Zumwalt, Harry Knight, Harry Vold, Tooke Rodeo Company, Marvin Brookman, Bob Aber, Beutler Brothers, Linger & Cervi, Powder River Rodeo Company, Korkow Rodeos, and the Calgary Stampede & Exhibition.

Champions' Ride best bronc awards have gone to horses such as: Trails End, Whiz Bang, Big John, Hard Twist, Necklace, Untouchable, Lonesome Me, Old Shep, Papa Smurf and British Soot.

Through the years, events such as calf roping, cow cutting, barrel racing and steer riding have been added or

dropped, but saddle bronc riding has remained the featured event. Triumphant contestants now ride for \$13,000 in prize money and a trophy rifle. The current Champions' Ride also features bull riding.

In addition to being a family-oriented fund-raiser, the Champions' Ride provides HOTR residents with the experience of scraping and painting fences, mowing and raking hay, selling concessions and programs, guiding tours and cleaning up the ranch. Residents savor the opportunity to meet and visit with rodeo contestants who serve as positive role models. Their favorite cowboy may complete a winning ride or hit dirt at six seconds—a situation that incorporates rodeo realities with life lessons.

Five-time world champion saddle bronc rider Dan Mortensen, Manhattan, Mont., was a 21-year-old college champion when he first rode at HOTR in 1990. He won that year and again in '96. "Sentinel Butte is probably the best matched bronc ride in the world right now as far as good stock, good prize money and good competition," Mortensen says. "Anytime I can make it here and compete against this caliber of competition on the animals that are here, it's a lot of fun."

Arts & Entertainment

JAMES "CY" TAILLON

James Cyril "Cy" Taillon, "the golden voice of professional rodeo," was born Oct. 18, 1907 northeast of Cavalier. The youngest of Eli and Philomine (Dumas) Taillon's 10 children, he grew up helping with farm chores and horse-powered fieldwork, while enjoying card games, horse-drawn skiing, baseball and his family's musical recreation.

Cy was a violinist at age six and also learned to play piano, guitar, tenor banjo and xylophone. "I learned most tunes from a friend who made moonshine whiskey," Cy said. "He'd get arrested and I'd visit him in jail, hand my violin through the bars, and listen (Continued on page 12)

(Taillon, continued from page 11)

to him play until I knew the tune by heart. To this day I can play dozens of tunes I don't know the names of."

Music and microphone prowess steered Cy into radio announcing. Rodeo producer Leo Cremer, Big Timber, Mont., lured him from radio to rodeo. "I had been announcing at a couple of radio stations during the Depression to bring in some extra cash while I was in pre-law at the University of North Dakota," Cy told *Western Horseman* (September 1966). "Leo kept telling me it could be a challenging and profitable field. I told Leo I'd do six rodeos for him through the summer. Instead, I wound up with engagements extending over 10 months, including such rodeos as the one at Chicago Stadium. By then I was sold on my job."

He worked with Cremer until he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942. Cy's niece, Lorna Nowatzki, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, worked in San Francisco while her Uncle was stationed there during World War II. She recently recalled, "I would baby sit for them...so I got to know them all very well. He was a very generous and wonderful man. When I started having my family he was always sending something in the mail. I still have the little rocking chair he had when he was a small child."

After an honorable discharge in 1945, he picked up in rodeo where he had left off.

The *Rodeo Sports News* wrote, "Cy pioneered the 'straight man' style of announcing in preference to the old style of 'corn comedy' prevalent when he took his first whack at the rodeo game, entering the bareback riding at Minot, N.D., in 1927."

Cy said, "I always swore if I ever announced a rodeo I'd try to present the rodeo cowboy as an athlete instead of as a bum. I want(ed) to explain their way of life, their standard of manhood, their patriotism." The acceptance of his style of announcing was Cy's favorite accomplishment. Still, he was modest about it as his wife, Dorothy, stated, "You brought class to rodeo for the first time."

His clear, concise commentary, precise grammar, and distinguished, well-groomed appearance brought dignity to rodeo. Cy injected drama and humor into every performance. His mental book on hundreds of cowboys made written reference notes unnecessary. "I'm interested in the cowboys, and I don't have any trouble remembering things about them," Cy explained.

Cy also had cool composure. He was handling a rodeo at Great Falls, Mont., on Aug. 9, 1946, when two airplanes collided over the fair grounds, burst into flames and fell to the barns, killing seven people and 19 horses. Despite the tragedy, Cy held the audience from stampeding and the show went on.

Cy announced the first National Finals Rodeo in 1959, and went on to announce it eight more times. He announced the Denver National Western 33 consecutive years and the San Francisco Cow Palace for 30 years. He also announced the Royal Easter Show at Sydney, Australia in 1965.

He escaped death in 1965 when he accepted a job announcing a cutting horse finals in Reno, Nev., instead of flying to Idaho with Bill Linderman in a jet that crashed en route.

Cy was named Rodeo's Man of the Year in 1965 and received the International Rodeo Management Award during the 1966 National Western. He was nominated for the North Dakota Rough Rider Award in 1966 and the Western Apparel and Equipment Manufacturers Association selected him as one of the nation's 10 best-dressed men in 1970 and '71. Cy was inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in 1979.

Cy's first wife, whom he later divorced, was Pat Montgomery and the couple had a daughter, Cyra Sue.



While in the Army, Cy met and married Dorothy Cosgriff, an Army lieutenant and nurse. They were married nearly 40 years and had two sons, Terry, Augusta, Mont., and Tom, Great Falls, Mont.

Dave Stout of the Rodeo Cowboys Association's Information Commission once said of Cy, "He could have achieved fame in music, aviation, newscasting or writing if he so desired. It's fortunate the rodeo world got the jump on the others to claim Cy for its own."

Late in his career Cy stated, "I have enjoyed the freedom of going where I wanted and doing what I wanted to do. I have loved rodeo with a passion and have wanted to be no place else but before the mic relating this sport to listening ears."

Still, it was a hectic lifestyle and Cy wrote in 1974, "When the high noise level incident to today's living becomes oppressive, I often find myself looking back rather wistfully and nostalgically to the much more tranquil period of my life as a farm youth in North Dakota. Life then was rather bucolic and, while work was hard, it provided a basic and close affinity with family and with the soil that provided our living...The air was clean and the smells of the good earth and things growing were experiences never to be forgotten."

Cy retired in 1979 and died April 16, 1980 in Great Falls, Mont.

Great Westerner

RAY SCHNELL SR.

Ray Schnell Sr. was born on his father's homestead near Richardton, May 24, 1893, the youngest of Frank and Maryann (Engel) Schnell's five boys and three girls. He grew up southeast of Richardton and took over the home farm/ranch following his father's death in 1915.

He married Clara Kittleson, a school teacher from Minnesota, on Oct. 24, 1918 in Richardton.

(Continued on page 13)

(Schnell, continued from page 12)

In 1924, Ray attended the Jones School of Auctioneering in Chicago. He then ran farm and cattle sales, in addition to ranching.

The Schnells moved to an operation southeast of Dickinson in 1925. In the 1940s and '50s, Ray and his family expanded their ranching interests further, purchasing operations north of Lemmon, S.D., and north and east of Richardton.

Ray had great draft and saddle horse knowledge and experience. In early years he raised horses using remount stallions, including a famous Thoroughbred stallion named Dutch Henry and an Arabian stallion named Mazzeapan. "I can still remember the Cavalry coming to the ranch to try out those horses," says his son, Bob, Rapid City, S.D.

"Pops loved good horses," recalls his son, Willard, Dickinson. "He constantly looked for a better horse.

As the need for draft horses faded, Ray's ambition to own and raise saddle horses surfaced. He was among the first to import Quarter Horse blood into North Dakota in the mid-1940s, buying two entire crops of filly colts from the Albert Mitchell Ranch in New Mexico.

"He firmly believed the outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man," Willard adds. "He wanted his horses disciplined, well-trained and ready to earn their keep."

Ray worked to improve the quality of his own livestock and encouraged fellow producers to do the same. He judged cattle and horse shows in ten states and Canada, including judging the Iowa State Hereford Association Show and Sale 20 consecutive years. "Dad often purchased livestock from the various events he attended, bringing them back to North Dakota where he sold them to area producers. In this way, he did much in introducing top seedstock to the region," says his son, Raymond Jr., Dickinson.

Ray believed in auction marketing. In 1937, he and two partners purchased the old Stark County Fairgrounds in Dickinson, converting it into

Dickinson Livestock Sales Company. Ray and four of his sons bought out the other partners in 1950. They upgraded the market and today it is known as Stockmen's Livestock Exchange. Schnell also leased markets in Miles City, Mont., and Lemmon, S.D., in the late 1950s and '60s.

Ray supported and promoted numerous livestock organizations and activities. He was Missouri Slope Livestock Breeders Association secretary/treasurer for 30 years and was the first president of the North Dakota Livestock Auction Market Association. He was a North Dakota Hereford Association president, North Dakota Stockmen's Association director, and member of the American National Cattlemen's Association, American Quarter Horse Association and 50 Years in the Saddle.

Ray was a trustee of Home On the Range for Boys at Sentinel Butte. He helped set up the livestock and farming program and by securing heifer donations, was principally responsible for the foundation Hereford herd.

His philosophy on politics was, "If you want to raise a family in this state and nation you'd better be interested in your government." He served six two-year terms in the North Dakota Legislature and was elected lieutenant governor in 1951-52. He was also a candidate for governor and U.S. Senator.

Ray said one of the most interesting and important projects of his career was as a National Cowboy Hall of Fame trustee. He encouraged and guided the project, and chaired the site selection committee that placed the Hall in Oklahoma City.

Honors received include 1959 All-American Father of the Year, bestowed by the American National Cowbelles.



The judges noted that Ray "devoted an outstanding amount of time to worthwhile industry, civic and charitable endeavors, and at the same time raised a fine family."

Ray was also named 1963 North Dakota Man of the Year in Livestock and 1965 Livestock Man of the Year at the Denver National Western. He was 1963 North Dakota State University Saddle & Sirloin Club Agriculturalist of the Year.

Ray promoted, managed and announced rodeos at Richardton in the 1920s, riding his favorite grey horse, Slim, and announcing with a megaphone.

He constructed a rodeo arena near the Dickinson auction market in the late 1940s. Then, Ray founded the Dickinson Match of Champions, beginning with an invitational calf roping in the summer of 1946. Saddle bronc riding was added in 1948. "We'd have the top stock from six or seven strings," Bob recalls. "It was a helluva show."

The last Dickinson Match was held in 1958, as Ray fully supported the just-born Home On The Range Champions' Ride at Sentinel Butte.

Ray and Clara had 13 children. Their living children include: Lucille Law, Raymond, Willard, and Gordon, all of Dickinson; ; Oral Shjeflo, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Robert, Rapid City, S.D.; Shirlene Winn, Pasadena, Texas; Wayne, Boulder, Colo.; and Jerry, Vienna, Va. Their deceased children include: infant daughters, Lavern and Luella, Howard, killed in 1955, and Viola Boehm in 1991.

In addition to his numerous business and civic endeavors, Ray was an excellent public speaker, a true salesman and an effective goodwill ambassador for North Dakota and the livestock business.

He died at his Dickinson home April 5, 1970. In a telegram to Ray's widow, Clara, former Senator Milton Young wrote, "Ray was one of the greatest citizens North Dakota has ever produced. He richly deserved the nationwide recognition he received in many fields."

Raffle Tickets Available for NDCHF Rifle

North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame limited-edition rifle number 45 is currently being raffled. Tickets are available from NDCHF Trustees and other members for \$10 each. The drawing will be held Aug. 6, at the Home On The Range Champions' Ride at Sentinel Butte.

The Winchester Model 94 30-30 is one of 50 commemorative rifles commissioned by the NDCHF Board of Directors in 1998.

The rifle was designed by S&S Promotional Group, Fargo. Rifles in the series sold for \$2,100 each but as collector's pieces, a secondary market has already developed. One rifle recently resold for \$3,000.

Second prize in the raffle is a bed-and-breakfast weekend for two at the Roughriders Hotel in Medora.

To purchase a raffle ticket call your local NDCHF trustee or the NDCHF office at 701-250-1833.



Rifle artwork includes 24-carat gold and nickel etching on the receiver. Scenes include branding, roping, bronc riding, a pioneer couple and a 'brand page' of six famous North Dakota brands.

Lardinois Family With Fiddlin' Johnny to Perform at Induction

Once again, the renowned Lardinois Family will add western dance atmosphere and unequalled musical quality to the NDCHF induction ceremony with their musical prelude beginning at 1 p.m. MDT at Tjaden Terrace, Medora.

John Sr. and Susan Lardinois met in music theory class in college and music has always been a family priority. Their older son, John Owen, started playing violin at age 4 at the Suzuki School of Music.

Today, "Fiddlin' Johnny," 20, is the centerpiece of the family's musical group. His success is credited to endless hours with bow and violin in hand. He says he finds fiddling less rigid and more creative than classical violin. John Owen chooses to keep music a top priority.

Meanwhile his sister, Jeanette, 18, plays the mandolin; Daniel, 16, plays the cello and John Sr. accompanies them all on his guitar. Susan manages the group, making sure their show gets on the road.

In 1997, John Owen placed third in the junior division of the National Old Time Fiddler's Contest in Weiser, Idaho. He's won numerous fiddling championships across the Midwest in the last nine years.

Available CDs include:

- *Aural History* (1994), which spans musical traditions from Civil War times to present.
- *Cowboy Legacy* (1997), presents rich fiddle tradition and chronicles the fiddle's role in the cattle drives from Texas to the Dakotas. The recording includes 12 pages of liner notes and photographs detailing the fiddle's importance to cowboys.
- *Lewis & Clark*, (1998), is a musical journey following the 1802 expedition up the Missouri River, and includes a 24-page booklet detailing music's role in the expedition.

To purchase CDs check local stores or call Chairmaker's Rush/Makoche Recording at (800) 637-6863.

Home On The Range Celebrates its 50th

Home On The Range, Sentinel Butte, celebrates "50 years of Care and Service to Children" in 2000. To commemorate the anniversary, HOTR is hosting special activities the evening of Saturday, Aug. 5 in Sentinel Butte.

A reunion of former HOTR residents and staff begins at 4 p.m. in the Sentinel Butte Community Hall, followed by a barbeque supper from 5 to 7 p.m. A free concert and dance featuring Billy D & The Crystals begins at 8:30 p.m.

On Aug. 6, the 44th Annual HOTR Champions' Ride begins at 2 p.m. The matched bronc ride will feature 20 Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association riders on stock from the Calgary Stampede and Exhibition, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Powder River Rodeo Productions, Wright, Wyo., and Korkow Rodeos, Pierre, S.D. Bull riding rounds out the afternoon of rodeo action.

In addition, the 2000 Champions' Ride will include a short recognition program honoring Ed and Emma Lievens and Father Elwood

Cassedy. The Lievens came to Golden Valley County in 1911 and farmed and ranched until 1949 when nearing retirement, they read of Fr. Cassedy's dream of starting a home for homeless and neglected boys. The couple deeded their 960-acre ranch to Fr. Cassedy enabling him to fulfill his dream.

Finally, HOTR's 50th Anniversary celebration will culminate on Friday, Oct. 13, with a roast honoring Superintendent Emeritus Fr. William Fahlander. The event will be held at the Seven Seas Inn, Mandan. Tickets for the \$100-per-plate event are on sale at HOTR and proceeds will help fund the Fr. Fahlander Endowment within the Home On The Range Foundation.

(NOTE: Champions' Ride tickets will be available at the NDCHF Hall of Honorees induction ceremony in Medora on Aug. 5 and at the gate on Aug. 6. Tickets are \$30 per immediate family or \$10 for adults and \$6 for students, 7 to 17. Children under six are free. For more information call 701-872-3745.)



Schaner Donates Taxidermy Talent



Taxidermist Dennis Schaner, Mandan, recently donated more than 100 hours to mount a red-and-white, spotted longhorn steer head for the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame.

The steer, donated by former Golva ranchers Ralph and Sue Northrup, is one of the longhorns trailed from Texas to Miles City, Mont., in 1995.

"I decided to donate my labor to mount this longhorn because it contributes to the ranching and farming heritage that my wife, Patti, and I have," Dennis says, noting that he grew up near Center. "I like to do my

part and this is a way I can contribute my time and talent."

A casual viewer can easily appreciate the beauty of the mount, but even trained taxidermists praise it, as evidenced at the North Dakota Taxidermy Association Competition and Expo in Valley City in March. The mount won "Best of Gamehead Category" out of 40 mounts. Noting that working with a short-haired animal and carefully blending its features is challenging, Dennis says, "I knew I could give the NDCHF a good product, but I wondered just how good it could be. Now, it's gained credibility as a masterpiece. To have had an opportunity to do this for the NDCHF means a lot to me."

Dennis began doing taxidermy in 1974. "Taxidermy takes a lot of time and patience is essential," he says.

He has mounts all of the United States as well as in South America and England, and has long promoted the development and betterment of taxidermy. He is a founding member of the NDTA and also belongs to the National Taxidermy Association and the International Guild of Taxidermy.



Dennis Schaner, Mandan, mounted this red-and-white, spotted longhorn steer for the NDCHF and earned a "Best of Category" award at the North Dakota Taxidermy Association Competition and Expo in March.

Burian Named to NDCHF Board

Kaye Burian, Manning, was recently named to the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame board of directors.



As an artist, Kaye says her ranching background and love of the outdoors provide her with the "perspiration and inspiration" necessary to paint her favorite subjects: prairie landscapes, horses, cattle and buffalo.

Kaye earned a B.S. degree in art from Dickinson State University in 1966. After teaching art for six years, she turned to painting full-time. Her art is currently featured in the Corbett Gallery, Big Fork, Mont., the Kruger Gallery, Ellensburg, Wash., and Montana Heritage Interiors, Bozeman, Mont.

Kaye has won numerous awards, including the Best of Show in Oil "Buckskinner Award" at the International Roughrider Art Show in Williston in 1998. She was featured in the publication *Notable North Dakotans* in 1999.

Kaye and her husband, Myran, own and operate the Lazy 77 Ranch, a registered and commercial Red Angus ranch northwest of Manning. They have two sons, Paige (Brenda), Manning, and Harden, a student at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan.

Three Stud Fee Donations Benefit the N.D. Cowboy Hall of Fame

Three stud fees benefitting the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame have been donated by NDCHF Trustee Glen Geitzen, Halliday, in the last 15 months. Bids ranging from \$100 to \$200 per stud fee have been given through the NDCHF livestock donation program which allows ranchers to donate livestock proceeds to the NDCHF.

Two stud fees were for Star Four Policy, a son of Angels Policy out of a

direct daughter of Zan Par Bar. One stud fee was for Caramel's Rocket, a Sugar Rocket son out of Caramel Countess, a daughter of Chocolate Jack by Two-Eyed Jack. The fees were auctioned at the April cataloged horse sale held at Stockmen's Livestock, Dickinson.

Explaining how it works, Gietzen says, "The bidder buys the breeding service, writes his check to the NDCHF and then contacts me when

he wants his mare bred."

He concludes, "It's a win-win-win situation. There's no cash lay-out for me, the buyer gets a nice colt for a reasonable stud fee and the NDCHF gets a needed donation.

"I challenge other stud owners to consider doing the same thing. It doesn't cost much—I feed and care for my stud all year anyway—and it benefits the NDCHF."

Edge of the West Rodeo to Support NDCHF

Bismarck's Edge of the West Rodeo has joined forces with the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame to preserve western heritage while promoting rodeo.

Because Edge of the West Rodeo is a non-profit organization, a percentage of profits from the annual rodeo will benefit the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame.

"What's good for rodeo is good for the NDCHF and vice versa," says NDCHF Executive Director Darrell Dorgan. The Edge of the West will promote the NDCHF in its advertising and during rodeo performances. For instance, past NDCHF rodeo inductees will be invited to attend and be recognized during a rodeo performance.

In addition, the NDCHF will help promote Edge of the West. "The NDCHF is in the business of preserving western history and heritage. Rodeo is part of that," Dorgan says. "Anything we can do to promote rodeo promotes heritage."

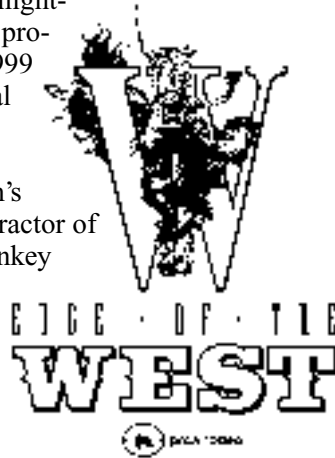
The fifth annual rodeo is scheduled for Oct. 5-7 at the Bismarck Civic Center. Rodeo performances



are at 7:30 nightly. Stock is provided by 1999 Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association's Stock Contractor of the Year Sankey Rodeo Company, Cody, Wyo. Nine-time PRCA Announcer of the Year Randy Corley will call the action and Miss Rodeo America Brandy DeJongh will be on hand.

Because the Edge of the West is held toward the end of the PRCA's regular season, it draws numerous top contestants who are trying to earn National Finals Rodeo berth. "We haven't had any problems getting big-name cowboys before and this year we're the same weekend as Minot," says Edge of the West Vice Chairman Tom Neuens, Bismarck. "Having two good rodeos 100 miles apart will help us get even more good contestants."

The Edge of the West is a Dodge Series rodeo, a CopeSkool ProRodeo rodeo and a Quality Farm & Country Series rodeo.



North Dakota History On Exhibit in Oklahoma

A traveling exhibit titled, "Legends of Our Times: Native Cowboy Life" is currently on display at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage in Oklahoma City, Okla.

The exhibit, organized by the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec, focuses on Native American ranching and rodeo as it evolved on the northern Great Plains and southern Canada.

NDCHF President Phil Baird served as an advisor of the exhibit. He also authored a chapter titled, "Indian Rodeo Cowboys of the Dakotas," included in the book, "Legends of Our Times: Native Cowboy Life," which is available with the exhibit.

In addition, the Three Affiliated Tribes Museum, New Town, is providing cultural artifacts as well as historical information about the impact the Missouri River dam construction had on Fort Berthold Indian Reservation farms and ranches.

For the permanent exhibit in Canada, Arnie Charging Sr., Roseglen, produced a large cowhide map outlining many original Fort Berthold reservation ranches along the Missouri River. Each ranch is identified by its original cattle brand.

Raleigh Rodeo Celebrates 50 Years

The Raleigh Rodeo Club celebrated its 50th anniversary during its annual North Dakota Rodeo Association Rodeo held July 3-4.

The first Raleigh rodeo was held in 1950 in the Raleigh stockyards. It was moved west of Raleigh in 1951. One year later, it was transferred to its present location north of Raleigh, having secured a 100-year lease from the Mike Ternes Family.

The earliest written record (1951) indicates the following men and their families have long been involved: Howard Christiansen, Wayne

Christiansen, Otto Dally, Joe Eli, Joe Gartner, A.J. Kopp, Pete Miller, Bill Morrison, Norvin Ozbun, Alois Paul, Alois Riehl, Rossows, Hubert Rounds, Alfred Schiek, Val Schriener, Mike Ternes, Vic Ternes, Mike Tishmack and Duaine Voigt.

Today, Larry Vetter is RRC president, along with the assistance of his wife, Kelly. Wayne Eckroth is in charge of stock. Currently, 31 families are Raleigh Rodeo Club members. In addition to the annual NDRA rodeo they produce a high school rodeo, a youth rodeo and numbered ropings.

NDCHF Board Member Ginny Eck Retires from Teaching Profession

North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame board member and first-grade teacher Ginny Eck, Bismarck, recently retired from education.

Ginny competed in her first horse show in the pleasure class when she was seven years old. She went on to become a four-time North Dakota Rodeo Association barrel racing champion and reigned as Miss Rodeo North Dakota in 1963.

Ginny continues to live and work on her ranch southeast of Bismarck where she enjoys riding horse, raising livestock, reading and gardening.

Obituaries

Vernon E. Brown

Vernon E. Brown, 74, died in January 2000.

Vernon was born Nov. 10, 1925. He grew up on the family farm near Millarton where he later raised horses and cattle. He married Syble Tomlin on Nov. 3, 1950. They moved to Jamestown in 1966 where they built a stable and indoor arena. He was a member of the Circle/Cross Saddle Club in Jamestown and a founding member of the Fort Seward Wagon Train.

He is survived by his wife, Syble, Faith, S.D.; three sons, Jody (JoAnn), and Newton (Debbie), both of Faith; and Rory (Wanda), Edgemont; and five grandchildren.

Normen E. Grubb

Normen E. Grubb, 73, died March 12, 2000.

Normen was born April 12, 1926 in Burke County. He grew up near Battleview and his first job was herding cattle at age four. He graduated from Powers Lake High School in 1945 and served in the U.S. Army from 1946-47.

He married LaVon Nelson, June 18, 1950. Normen was active in church and community. He served in the state legislature from 1973-74 and was a member of the Powers Lake Saddle Club.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, Nolan (Malinda) Grubb, Huntington, W. Va., and Stanton (Diane) Grubb, Des Moines, Iowa; three daughters, Donelda Grubb, Zona Grubb and Natalie Grubb; and five grandchildren.

Alfred Hansen

Alfred Hansen, 85, died March 31, 2000.

Alfred was born Nov. 28, 1914 at Werner. He attended high school there and served in the U.S. Army from 1941-45. He was awarded numerous citations.

He married Mary Eileen Brandt in 1946. They ranched north of Werner. He enjoyed ranching, raising regis-

tered Quarter horses, and was an avid supporter of rodeos, showdeos, FFA and 4-H. He was a National Cattlemen's Association charter member and received a North Dakota Stockmen's Association honorary membership in 1995.

He is survived by his wife, three sons, Dwight (Sharon), Dunn Center; Bob (Rose) Dickinson; Fred, Dunn Center; three daughters, Eileen (Willard) Nickisch, St. Charles, Mo.; Marla (Al) Morrison, Killdeer; Carla (Bill) Trotter, Grassy Butte, one daughter-in-law, Sharon Hansen, Killdeer; one sister, 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Preston Jensen

Preston Jensen, 17, died March 20, 2000.

Preston was born July 8, 1982 in Dickinson. He was raised and educated in Medora and enjoyed basketball and horseback riding. He spent summers working for the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation at the Medora Riding Stables, assisted with Calvary Colors, and the Medora Musical.

He is survived by his parents, Douglas and Marjorie Jensen, Medora, his paternal grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Margaret McDowell

Margaret McDowell, 77, died April 18, 2000.

Margaret Hendrickson was born Jan. 13, 1923 in Perth. She married Harley McDowell in 1948 and they started McDowell's Big Boy, Bismarck, in 1953.

She is survived by her husband, Harley, a sister and several nieces and nephews.



Jack R. Stewart

North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame historical adviser Jack R. Stewart, 75, died June 6, 2000.

Jack was born Dec. 2, 1924 at Langdon. He and his family moved to Sherwood in the early '30s and Jack graduated from Sherwood High School in 1941.

He attended the Merchant Marine academy and later served in the U.S. Air Force. He married Althena Raptis on March 30, 1951 and taught school for more than 30 years; 17 in Dickinson.

Jack was sought out for his western lore and Native Americana knowledge. He was an avid collector and worked for many years as a consultant and curator of the Fur Traders and Trappers Museum in Medora. He was also an accomplished artist who painted many Old West scenes.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, Michael, Cascade, Idaho, and Jackson, Sioux Falls, S.D.; two daughters, Patricia Stewart, Sherwood, and Lili Stewart-Wheeler, Dickinson; and five grandchildren.

Paul Tibor

Paul Tibor, 80, died April 30, 2000.

Paul was born Sept. 21, 1919 at rural Hebron. He was educated there and served in the U.S. Army Air Corp. from 1942-46. He returned to the area to farm and ranch with his brother. He married Ann Conlon on Nov. 26, 1974 and they continued farming until 1984.

He is survived by his wife, four stepsons: Jim (Linda); Denis (Sarah); Robert (Janet); all of Hebron; Terry (Kisanna), and one step-daughter: Jean (Allen) Raff, both of Pomeroy, Wash.; two brothers, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Obituary Policy:

If you are aware of the recent death of a NDCHF member, North Dakota cowboy/rancher, or friend of western heritage, please inform us and if possible, provide an obituary.

Send notice/obituary to: North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, 1110 College Drive, Suite 212, Bismarck, ND 58501. While all submissions will be noted, space availability and NDCHF relevancy may dictate length.

Cowboy Hall of Fame Sustaining Members Contribute

The following are new North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame sustaining members. To contribute to the sustaining drive or building fund, please complete and mail the form on page 19.

Building Fund

Mitzel Builders
William Rase
United Printing
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Diamond Saddle (\$1,000 annually)

Burlington Resources Foundation
Phillip Morris Companies Inc.

Gold Buckle (\$500 annually)

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NDCHF Gifts Honoring Loved Ones

In memory of Mike Birdsell

Cal Petersen

In memory of Al & Helen Buehli

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In memory of Betty Camp

Jim & Donna Fritz

In honor of George Christensen's

80th Birthday

Ed & Betty Grantier

In memory of Ron Egly

Jim & Donna Fritz

In memory of Nick Fettig

Ruth Fettig

In memory of Albert Fossum

Joyce Fossum

In memory of Alfred Hansen

Eleanor Trotter

In memory of Howard Harmon

Fay & Lynn Connell

In memory of Preston Jensen

Darrell & Kathy Dorgan

Randy & Sue Mosser

In memory of Leroy Kalenze

Doug & Merle Stevick

In memory of Orville Klein

Beverly Kasper

In memory of Harold Lowman

John & Lila Lee Kalvoda

Anna Lowman

Bill & Joann Lowman

Charles & Marleen Lowman

Jim & Dona Lowman

In memory of Tootsie Luchsinger

Evelyn Neuens

In memory of Margaret McDowell

Darrell & Kathy Dorgan

In memory of Gene McCormick

Betty McCormick

In memory of Chad Meyer

Randy & Sue Mosser

In memory of Donnie Neidhardt

James & Barbara Johnson

Selma Neidhardt

In memory of Jack Stewart

Darrell & Kathy Dorgan

In memory of Paul Tibor

Darrell & Kathy Dorgan

Sherry Plummer

In memory of Alice Rebecca "Becky" Zoller

Evelyn Neuens

Memorial Plaque Purchased for Taylor

Bill Taylor is currently being honored with a Memorial Wall plaque to be placed in the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame.

•**Bill Taylor** came to North Dakota in 1896 after Doc Blaylock hired him and his younger brother, Jess, to trail Converse Cattle Company's AHA herd to McKenzie County.



Upon reaching North Dakota, Bill continued to work at the AHA and on another area Converse Ranch, the Long X. Bill participated in three more trail drives between 1897 and 1900. He began running his own hors-

es with a T Cross brand in 1905. He married Olaphene "Teppy" Werpy in 1914 and they sold the T Cross horses in 1917. Bill became a hotel manager, a deputy sheriff and a justice of the peace. The couple had two daughters, Ruth Taylor Scobie, Evanston, Ill., and Goldie Taylor Wilson, San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Memorial Wall plaques honor those for whom at least \$1,000 in memorials is given. Anyone honored in such a way is automatically included in the NDCHF Card File Registry.

To inquire about benefactor plaques, Memorial Wall plaques or the card file entries call the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame office at 701-250-1833.

Join the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame Corral

The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation and all contributions are tax deductible.

- **Kid Corral** – \$10 annually
Membership card and newsletter.
- **Wrangler Club** – \$50 annually
All Kid Corral incentives plus bumper sticker and invitations to NDCHF events.
- **Ranch Boss Club** – \$100 annually
All Wrangler incentives plus window decal and limited-edition NDCHF coffee mug.
- **Silver Buckle Club** - \$250 annually
All Ranch Boss incentives plus autographed photo of first Hall of Fame inductees.
- **Gold Buckle Club** – \$500 annually
All Silver Buckle incentives plus limited-edition NDCHF poster.
- **Diamond Saddle Club** – \$1,000 annually
All Gold Buckle incentives plus NDCHF founders plaque and listing on member's wall at Hall of Fame.
- **Trail Drivers Club** – \$5,000 annually
All Diamond Saddle incentives plus NDCHF commemorative sculpture and access to reserved seating at NDCHF events.
- **Bronc Rider Club** – \$10,000 annually
All Trail Drivers incentives plus a professionally-produced five-minute video segment on family and family history shot on-location in North Dakota. A copy of the tape will be retained in NDCHF archives.

Just a Reminder!

Please pay your
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
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North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame Contributions/Memorials

Membership Contribution of \$ _____ Category _____

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Visa or Mastercard _____ Exp. Date _____

Mail this form (or a copy of it) along with your check to:
North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, 1110 College Drive, Suite 212, Bismarck, N. D., 58501

(Building, continued from page 1)

Medora Zoning Commission approved the project in a 5-1 vote in June.

The \$3 million facility includes the NDCHF Hall of Honorees, a 45-seat theater, display areas, space for visiting exhibits, an art gallery, a multi-purpose meeting area available to corporations and organizations, archives for research, a library, a children's activity area, an outside patio for educational exhibits and entertainment, and an awe-inspiring view of the Little Missouri River and Badlands.

Display areas will interpret and honor Native American tribes, trail drivers, homesteaders, ranches and rodeo. "Some exhibits will change every year and the whole project is tied together by the people, the land and the horse culture of the North Dakota Plains," says NDCHF Executive Director Darrell Dorgan.

One-third of the funding for the \$3 million project is currently committed and earnest efforts are under way to

secure further backing. For example, a NDCHF delegation recently met with the CEO of Toyota Corporation to explore possible support.

"This building is not an overnight creation—the design has been in the works for five years," says NDCHF President Phil Baird, Mandan. "I'm happy our board has the integrity and foresight to know what the future of this project looks like." Baird stresses that the facility represents a broad, state-wide group of people, but the common thread is still the group's appreciation for western heritage. "Nowhere else will anyone see this collection of people, land, communities and events.

"This is a Hall of Fame. It doesn't need to look like a Medora hotel or a summer business," he says. "This is a shrine-like place of honor. We're trying to incorporate the western heritage theme with the stature and dignity that North Dakota's western heritage deserves. I encourage supporters to trust us that when it's all said and

done, the project will be appreciated and admired by North Dakotans and out-of-state visitors."

To qualify for federal grants the project must meet State Historical Society specifications. Though those parameters have not yet been met, Dorgan says, "We're working on a compromise with the historical society and we're confident an agreement can be reached shortly."

Baird concludes, "We extend our sincere appreciation to supporters in Medora and the surrounding area."

***Editor's Note:** There are only two cowboy honorees in the Rodeo division this year. Eight individuals were nominated, but because a new Trustee rule requires that inductees be **selected by at least 50 percent of those casting ballots**, only two cowboys will be inducted.

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