

States and in Cuba just as Castro was taking over. Gene Autry was the star in the Wild West experience of actually running to get out of Cuba alive and with the stock.

Tommy and the Steiner family have been a real credit to the world of rodeo and have been written up in various publications, including Sports Illustrated. He and his beautiful wife Beverly were appointed “Good Will Ambassadors of Texas”, by the late Gov. John Connally.

Tommy and wife Beverly in addition to producing top flight PRCA rodeos, produced three sons. Bobby the middle son became the 1973 World Champion Bull Rider. Bobby married a champion barrel racer Joleen Hurst. Their youngest son Sid is carrying on the legendary Steiner name as a PRCA Steer Wrestler. Buck Steiner, Tommy’s father who is now 96 years old was inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1993. This is four generations in the PRCA and all living.

Tommy produced and provided stock for PRCA rodeos until 1983, when he sold the Steiner Rodeo Co. and retired from active participation.

However, on occasion he has been known to come out and demonstrate his talents, when a producer or stock contractor needs help. He’s retired from the rodeo but not out of it. Tommy is in constant touch with the rodeo business and the many, many friends he has made. Tommy Steiner deserves recognition, as a true cowboy, who has certainly contributed to the heritage of the professional cowboy.

Tommy is now deceased.

John Stokes and Lynn

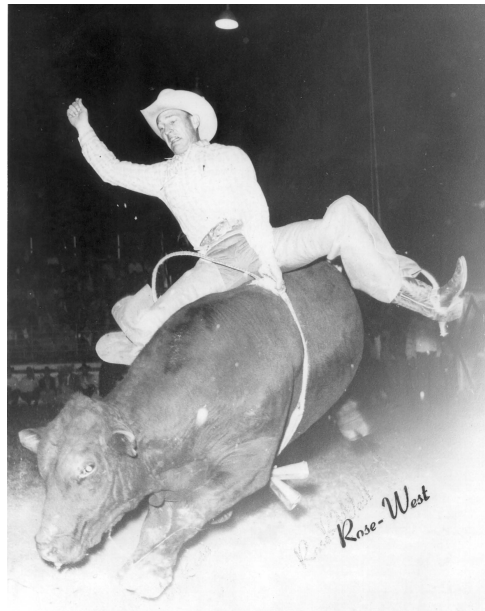
By Tooter Smith and interviewed by El Deano

John Stokes was born October 1, 1939 in Lubbock, Texas to Helen and Clyde (C.A.) Stokes. The family moved to Evant, Texas where his dad owned an auction in Lampasas and was in the livestock, trucking and livestock buying. “I learned how to ride and rope at a young age. We moved to Evant, Texas in 1954. Charles Mayfield (Big Un) started me riding steers and Jr. bulls at F.F.A. and Jr. Rodeos. I rode bulls from 1955 to 1973 all over the U. S. and was in the RCA for 7 years, mostly at open rodeos. I placed at Odessa, Dallas, Denver, Ft. Worth, Houston, Colorado Springs, Texarkana, Waco, Georgetown, Brownwood, Rocksprings and many others,” Stokes said. He started riding bulls out of the back of a pickup or trailer at the age of 14 then finally built a bucking chute on the place at Evant in a one acre trap he practiced in. On Saturday nights he would go to Rising Star and ride.

In 1956, he bought his permit and rode in Belton and Taylor on the Fourth of July. In Taylor he placed in the bullriding so he had to go buy his R. C. A. card and he placed in the wild horse race at Belton but that didn’t go toward money for the card. He rodeoed full time until about 1973. His most memorable ride was at Georgetown, Texas in a jackpot bullriding on a bull of Sloan Williams. He won the bullriding and won more than he had ever seen.

In 1960, B. J. Bartlett and Leon Bauerle started him steer wrestling. He also worked the wild horse race and cow milking over the years. He said, “ I traveled with Bobby Joe Bartlett and Leon, Willis Brothers, Louis Davenport, Scooter Pizzatola, Billy Red Rogers, Don Shiller, Kurley Hebb and others.”

In 1965, he married his childhood sweetheart Lynn in Sonora, Texas and this past January 2004 they were married 39 years. In 1955, he got the bug to start clowning. He was working for the Beulter Bros. in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Goldy Carlton was the barrel man and was hurt so John finished out the rodeo for him



and thought it was pretty easy money. In 1961, he started working for Lloyd Woodley and clowned with Don Shiller and then worked for Bill Hogg at the Cow Bell Arena. He also worked for the Steiners, Ralph Collier and Beulter and Sons, "Pop" Raker, George Haynes, Ralph Collier, Hoss Inman, Sloan Williams, Mr. Frank Harris and others. He quit clowning in 1968 because there was more money in riding bulls and bulldogging, and because there were a lot of other clowns in the business. In 1966, John and Lynn moved back to Sonora and when he quit riding bulls in 1969 he started a welding business that was very successful.

In Texarkana, Texas was John's most memorable wrecks. He made the whistle and then had a long drag before coming loose from the bull. Now that he no longer rides, he and Lynn ranch and he team ropes. In 1966, he started roping steers and tying them but now he only team ropes.

John and Lynn are both only children in their respective families. They have one daughter and they all live at Freer, Texas on a ranch. In 1999, they moved to Freer from Colorado where they had spent three years. They moved to Freer to be near daughter Tamara, her husband Juan Garcia and grandchildren Jay and Shannon. Tamara ran barrels, poles and roped calves. They all live at the K-Bar Ranch in Freer, Texas.

Stokes says, "I have had a lot of traveling partners over the years but Lynn is my number one fan and best traveling partner. You may not make a fortune rodeoing but you will make lots of good friends and memories that will last forever."

In 1975, they started furnishing team roping steers for ropings such as Windy Ryon Memorial and the OS at Post, until 1985.

Lynn Kirby Stokes was a ranch girl, a barrel racer and is the daughter to Howard and Chess Kirby. Lynn was also John's number one fan and traveling partner. They now enjoy the grandchildren and going to the Rodeo & Clown Reunions. They have met a lot of good people over the years and they always run into people they've met somewhere at different times.

Dale Stone

1999 Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame

Dale Stone started in rodeos in 1932 when he was fourteen years old. He competed in local rodeos around Beaumont and southwestern Louisiana. Dale says, "In my 67 years, I have seen many changes in the world and rodeos". Dale first rode steers and horses with a two-handed surcingle and later with one hand. He later progressed to bareback horses with a one-hand rigging, steers and bulls with a loose rope (no handhold) and saddle broncs with a committee saddle, with a horn.

Over the years, Dale rode in a great many rodeos taking a share of the money - sometimes a lions share. Some of these rodeos were Laredo, Houston, Ft. Worth, Texas; Pampa, Birmingham, Cleveland, Ohio; Hershey and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; Springfield, Ft. Smith and Broken Arrow, Arkansas; Tulsa and Ardmore, Oklahoma; Burwell, Nebraska; Prescott, Arizona; Salinas, Vallejo, California; Ogden, Utah; Cheyenne, Wyoming and many others. Dale also worked with Pappy Miller's Wild West show in Iowa and Colburn and Knight near Dublin, caring for and trying out bucking stock. He rode the stock train to New York where he competed at Madison Square Garden.

The Buckskin rodeo competition of 1942 is one of Dale's most memorable, winning the All-Around championship. Dale made three winning rides, the wild horse saddling and bucking contest, the bareback bronc riding event and the saddle bronc riding.

Among his favorite traveling companions were Virginia and Kid Fletcher, Elmo Walls, Paul Bond and George Mills.

Dale tells a tale that happened at Harrison, Arkansas, "Hub Whiteman awakened me late at night after the rodeo and told me that he had been insulted at a pool hall that also served alcohol. This fellow was too small for Hub to discipline and he asked me to go and teach him a lesson, which I did, to Hub's satisfaction."