

The Bascom Family

Weldon, Raymond, Melvin, Earl, "Texas" Rose" and father John W.



Bronc Bustin' Bascom Boys - L to R.

John W. Bascom, Raymond Bascom, Earl Bascom,
Melvin Bascom, Weldon Bascom

One historian said, "Perhaps no family has been so steeped in western history and had so great an influence on the rodeo cowboy culture, as the Bascom family."

The Bascoms have been called the Royal Family of Rodeo as they are descendants of European Royalty.

The Bascom clan was led by patriarch John W. Bascom (1869-1948), a rancher in the United States and Canada, and a frontier lawman in Utah who once chased Butch Cassidy and his Wild Bunch gang.

Born and raised on a ranch in Utah, John Bascom moved his family to southern Alberta in 1914 and worked as a foreman of the Knight Ranch which was one of Canada's largest ranching operations.

He was a rodeo producer and stock contractor who has been inducted into the Lethbridge (Alberta) Sports Hall of Fame in Canada, as well as the Utah Cowboy Hall of Fame.

His four oldest sons – Raymond, Melvin, Earl and Weldon –



were involved in ranching and rodeoing from an early age. The four brothers, known as the “Bronco-Bustin’ Bascom Boys,” made a name for themselves in rodeo in Canada and the United States.

The Bascom family became prolific rodeo innovators, credited with inventing, among other things, the side-delivery bucking chute 1916 and the reverse-opening side-delivery bucking chute in 1919. Whereas, Earl Bascom developed the first hornless bronc saddle in 1922, and the first one-hand bareback rigging in 1924 as well as the first high-cut rodeo chaps in 1926.

Raymond “Tommy” Bascom (1901-1943) was born in Utah and was a rodeo champion, a skilled horseman and horse trainer, both for saddle and for racing. He got his cowboy nickname because he looked like the Hollywood cowboy Tom Mix. He was a rodeo pickup man from 1920 to 1940, including ten years at the Calgary Stampede from 1930 to 1940. He started out as a saddle bronc contestant but became known as a champion chariot racer and Roman standing racer from 1926 to 1936. He served on the Raymond Stampede Committee before his life was cut short by cancer, dying in 1943 at the age of 41. He has been inducted into halls of fame in Utah and Alberta. His two sons, Billy and Wesley, carried on his rodeo legacy as bronc riders and trick riders.

Melvin “High Pockets” Bascom (1903-1987) was born in Utah and was a rodeo cowboy from 1916 to 1946 competing in saddle bronc, bareback, steer and bull riding, steer decorating, calf roping, wild cow milking and wild horse racing at rodeos in Canada and the U.S., including two of the world’s largest rodeo’s, the Calgary Stampede and the Cheyenne Frontier Days. He was also a rodeo producer, rodeo stock contractor and arena director for 29 years. Mel has been inducted into halls of fame in Utah and Canada.

Weldon “Preacher” Bascom (1912-1993) was born in Utah and was a rodeo cowboy from 1922 to 1945, in the United States, Canada and Europe in the saddle bronc, bareback steer and bull riding, steer decorating, steer wrestling, wild cow milking and wild horse racing events. He was also a rodeo producer, rodeo announcer, rodeo sports writer, and rodeo trick rider. He competed at many of the big rodeos of his day – Calgary, New York, Chicago, Fort Worth, and London, England. He known as the last cowboy to be bucked off of the world famous bucking horse Midnight in 1934.

He and his older brother Earl produced the first rodeo in Columbia, Mississippi in 1935 where they introduced and promoted Brahma bull riding as a rodeo event. They have since been called the Fathers of Mississippi Rodeo and the Fathers of Rodeo Brahma Bull Riding. They both have been given the ProRodeo Hall of Fame "Pioneer Award." Weldon has been inducted into the Mississippi Rodeo Hall of Fame, the Utah Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Idaho Rodeo Hall of Fame, as well as halls of fame in Canada.

Earl Bascom (1906-1995) was born in Utah and competed in rodeo from 1916 to 1940, winning assorted titles including a number of All-Around Champion honors in the United States and Canada. He competed in the saddle bronc, bareback and bull riding, steer decorating, steer wrestling, wild cow milking and wild horse racing events. He was also a rodeo producer, rodeo announcer, rodeo historian, rodeo trick rider and a bronc riding stunt double in Hollywood movies. In 1933, he set a new world record time, two arena record times, won the Reserve Championship at the Calgary Stampede and placed third in the world in the steer decorating event.

Earl Bascom has been called rodeo's greatest inventor and innovator or rodeo equipment. One hundred years ago in 1922, he made rodeo's first hornless bronc saddle. He designed and made rodeo's first one-hand bareback rigging in 1924. And in 1926, he designed and made the first modern rodeo chaps. He is known internationally as the Father of Modern Rodeo and as the Father of Rodeo Bareback Riding for his many important rodeo equipment inventions and innovations, including the modern rodeo bucking chute in 1919. Earl is an honoree of several rodeo halls of fame in Alberta, California, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Idaho and Utah including the National Bareback Riding Hall of Fame, as well as sports halls of fame in Canada and the United States. He was the first rodeo champion to be inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame - Canada's premier sports hall - and made a Peer of the Canadian Order of Sport.

As a rodeo cowboy art sculptor, he earned the titles of Dean of Rodeo Cowboy Sculptors and King of Canadian Cowboy Artists. The Professional Rodeo Cowboy Artists Association declared Earl Bascom to be the first professional rodeo cowboy to become a professional rodeo cowboy artist and sculptor. His bronze sculptures and artwork are highly prized by museums and collectors in the

western art world.

Country singer Clay Walker said that Earl Bascom is “the Cowboy of Cowboy Artists due to his wide rang of Western experiences as a professional bronc buster, bronc rider, bull rider, trick rider, cowpuncher, trail driver, blacksmith, freighter, wolf hunter, wild horse chaser, rodeo champion, cattle rancher, dude wrangler, and Hollywood cowboy actor.”

“Texas” Rose Bascom (1922-1993) was born and raised in Mississippi. She was of Choctaw-Cherokee Indian heritage. She married rodeo cowboy Weldon Bascom. She was a rodeo performer who started as a trick rider but gained international fame as a fancy trick roper. She toured many years with the Wild Bill Elliott Rodeo Company and was billed as the “World’s Greatest Female Trick Roper.” She performed on television, on stage, and in Hollywood movies. She toured the world performing with the Bob Hope troupe. She has been inducted into the Mississippi Rodeo Hall of Fame, the Utah Rodeo Hall of Fame and the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame.



“Texas” Rose Bascom (1922-1993)
Inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame.