



Ernest Beakley

By El Deano

2007 TRCHF Inductee



Ernest Beakley started riding at Crider's at Hunt, Texas around 14 or 15 years of age. He got on his first bareback horse and won it. Got on a bull the next week and placed on him. He stood about 5'10" and was about 150 pounds at that time. Wilton Crider knew he was good and encouraged Ernest to enter big rodeos. In fact, Wilton gave Ernest his first pair of bullriding spurs. Circa 1957, he won the bareback and bullriding in one go round in Houston. In 1954 or 1955, he placed in Denver, Houston, Odessa and Ft. Worth. Later during the years of 1954-1960, he placed at most of the bigger shows in the United States. Biggest money he ever won was at Madison Square Garden in New York City winning \$4,000 either 1955 or 1956. His biggest wreck was at Mesquite, Texas circa 56-57 where he was kicked with bottom side of the bull's hoof after he got off. He was taken to the hospital and afterwards Neal Gay came by to check on him, "Neal Gay was always interested in his contestants' welfare", said Ernest. This wreck caved the side of his face in but the consolation was that he won the bullriding that night. It was but a few days after the wreck that he entered another rodeo that was close by. So is the way with bullriders, they are a tough bunch.

