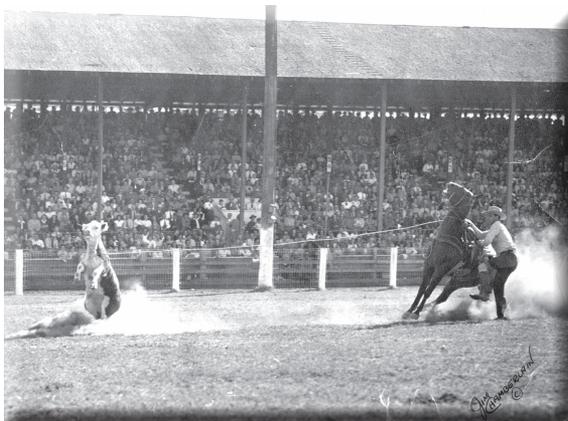




## John "Poochy" Eckhart

Poochy Eckhart died at the age of 39 in Rocksprings, Texas on February 8, 1964. He was born on December 16, 1924 in Medina County, Texas the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Eckhart. On October 7, 1938 he married Miss Dorothy Humph in Hondo, Texas.



He won fame in rodeo circles for his outstanding performances in roping and will be remembered as one of the top ropers. He held Turtle and RCA cards and traveled all over the United States winning several big rodeos. Some of his traveling partners were L. N. Sikes and Ray Wharton along with other great ropers and rodeo hands.

One year during the Rocksprings Fourth of July Rodeo, Poochy entered, even though he hadn't planned on going. After he got there he decided to enter and that was a good decision.

He roped calves in 10.8 and 12.6, winning the trophy saddle, competing with 110 ropers. He also got first day money and first final money, making it a glorious Fourth for the Hondo ranch worker. He worked at the Woodward Ranch when not rodeoing.

At the sixth annual American Legion Rodeo in Rocksprings in 1955, Poochy won the senior calf roping, winning a saddle and prize money. Poochy also entered the bulldogging at San Antonio in 1950



and topped the list with 5.4 seconds. Poochy even competed as far away as Ellensburg, WA in 1948 winning the calf roping and a trophy buckle.

Many times his wife and four sons attended the rodeo with him. Sons were John Dale, Ronald David, Gary Allen and Byron Clay. At the time of his death, his wife Dorothy was expecting their daughter Patricia Ann.

Poochy would have been proud of his grandson Cody Eckhart, son of Ronald David. After graduating from high school Cody joined the Army and just as his youthful days had allowed him days of camaraderie and team activities with his friends and classmates, the Army offered him the same. Cody was born September 21, 1978 to Terri and Ronny Eckhart and went to be with his Lord, April 10, 2004 while fulfilling his duty.

It was in August that Cody found out his unit would be going to Iraq after Christmas. As part of a Reconnaissance team, Cody was involved in going ahead of the convoys and troops, looking for hidden traps and bombs-Cody was hit by shrapnel and died from the injuries he sustained. According to the comrades in his unit, he was very brave and fought to the end. True patriots can thank God for soldiers like Cody and others who have served the United States Armed Forces in all of the battles they have fought to keep America and other countries free.