

 **ALL COWBOY & ARENA CHAMPIONS**
HALL OF FAME 

Dave Garrison



The first time I can remember seeing a rodeo was in San Angelo, I snuck of and got into the steer riding even though I had no idea what to do. I remember the clowns picking me up and say-



ing, 'Good ride kid.' I didn't remember it but at that time I knew I wanted to be a rodeo clown.

I didn't have much to do with rodeo between then (I was about 12-13) until we moved to Johnson City. By that time I was around 16 went to rodeo, they had junior bull riding again somebody handed me a rope helped me on and again a clown picked me up and said, 'Good ride kid.'

I don't remember how but got to talking one of the clowns about getting started clowning, he said come back tomorrow night. I couldn't wait. The clowns put me in the barrel. That was the first and the last time I was in a barrel. From the day forward I continued to look for rodeos in the area where I finally got to put on makeup and baggy pants. I am not sure what happened to keep me going, I guess it was the excitement or the attention.

I had the privilege of working for some of the great Central Texas producers, Lloyd Woolloey, Sloan Williams, Lester Meier, and others I can't remember. I had the privilege of working some of the great rodeos around the country.

I decided to hang up the baggy pants after some 25-30 years and enjoyed every minute. I have to thank the following for the privilege of being in the arena with them, Don Shiller, Ralph Fisher, Skipper Voss, Leon Coffee, Alfred Hill, and many others.

Being a clown back then meant having acts for crowd entertainment as well as bull fighter. It sure has come a long way, but the rodeo including producers, announcers, pickup men, judges are still entertaining folks all around the world. I can say not a day goes by I don't think of something that happened at a rodeo.

All I can say is don't ruin rodeo like so many other sports. It is a sport where it's just a cowboy against the animal. KEEP RODEO ALIVE AND KICKING!