



Dwight Graham

1999 Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame

wight Graham Tadlocks 1958.JPG 640x413 pixels

4/18



Dwight Graham was born to Bill and Annie Graham on September 28, 1929 in Quinlan, Texas. Although, he was not born into a rodeo family, Dwight had a great love for horses at an early age. Dwight was most influenced by Keith Barnett, a calf roper. By the time he was twelve Dwight was entering jackpot calf ropings, and occasionally would enter the bareback riding. Dwight soon learned that the rough stock were not for him, but went on to be one of the best calf ropers around, and although he missed very few cattle during his entire career, he didn't miss any in 1962.



Dwight moved to Mesquite in 1943 and joined the R. C. A. in 1946. That was at the Pleasant Mound Rodeo, which was owned by Charlie McNally, who founded what is now the Mesquite Rodeo. Being an approved rodeo, Dwight was told that if he wanted to compete he would have to join the R. C. A., so he paid his \$5.00 and became a professional cowboy. Dwight traveled with Bill Mullins, Byrle Hartsell, Windy Ryon, Don McLaughlin and George Brown.

In 1947, Dwight roped at the first High School Rodeo ever held. It was in the Texas town of Hallettsville. After graduating from high school, he attended Texas A&M College. Every year after college, Dwight went to rodeos throughout Arkansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and to Cheyenne, and competed against the very best ropers in the world and beat them often. Some of his career highlights include winning or placing at the Mesquite Rodeo thirteen times in a row. The biggest and proudest win was when he won both Memphis, Tennessee and Pine Bluff, Arkansas, which were being held at the same time. The last R. C. A. Rodeo that Dwight entered was at Shreveport, Louisiana in 1971.

Dwight's career included many matched ropings, being defeated only twice in 30 years. A lot of success for his winning career goes to horses; Doc, Crutch, Ben and Burt. Dwight states the best roping horse he ever saw was Badly, owned by Clyde Burke and later owned by Jack Skipworth and Troy Fort. The very best roper he ever saw was his father-in-law, Arthur Newton, who was foreman of the Josey Ranch.

Dwight loves rodeo, but most of all, he loves the people involved in it. Some of his fondest memories of rodeo are the times he played golf with Bill Linderman, Bill Fedderson and Pat Scudder. Dwight is a P. R. C. A. gold card holder, #2408, and active supporting member of Rodeo Cowboy Alumni, Cowboy Old Timers, and Friends of Rodeo. Dwight is retired as State manager for a national feed company and has lived in and around Tyler, Texas for 35 years.

Dwight is the father of two sons, Don and Joel. Don was a rodeo cowboy, and Joel likes horses but wants them all under the hood!