



ALL COWBOY & ARENA CHAMPIONS

HALL OF FAME



Connie Mitchell Johnson



Living on a ranch in Rock-springs, Texas, in the fifties, the Mitchell girls were the “cowboys” when it came to riding and gathering stock. However, when Connie, the oldest, decided that she wanted to high school rodeo, it took lots of convincing to finally get the go ahead to start practicing barrels and polls from her dad, Loyd, a former champion calf roper. What wonderful friends were made and great experiences happened when

traveling to all the nearby towns such as Sonora, Ozona, Del Rio and participating in the awesome 4th of July rodeos in Rock-springs where she was Rodeo Queen in 1961.

Another great rodeo memory was her freshmen year at Texas Tech when Connie had no vehicle but was fortunate enough to have her barrel horse and long shot trailer. She and her roommate, now Wanda Driver, board-





ed their horses at the same place which was a plus! Some of the rodeo team ropers such as Benton Wardlaw hauled her or used her trailer making for such good times being on the Tech rodeo team. She was Tech Rodeo Queen her freshmen year, 1962.

Rodeo continued in her married life in Colorado with her husband, Tom, a former RCA bull rider, and son, Dudley, Austin, TX., both team roping. Her other children are Andee Starbuck, Clovis, N.M. and Julie Clayton, San Marcos, Tx.

“So, Dean, when you asked for rodeo memories, reminiscing about the good old days made me even prouder to have grown up in a rodeo family with the experiences of not only being a cow-girl but the opportunity of making so many long life friends,” she concluded.