



Jim and Fay Nobles

Jim is Deceased

by El Deano

Jim Nobles was still getting on bucking bulls until he was fifty-nine years old, along the years of 1995-96. Now, if you've never tried that dangerous sport that doesn't mean anything to you, but to those who have competed, you know what I'm talking about.

Nobles started getting on bulls when he was a teenager and rode regularly until he was about thirty. He also learned to rope with Ronnie Parks and later on steer wrestled with Bobby Anz. While working for

the City of Waco he tore his back up and had to quit dogging.

Nobles graduated from Waco High in 1955 and worked around the Waco area for a few years. In 1960, he joined the Texas National Guard for the six months active and five and one-half years reserve program. After Nobles got out of the Guard he started working for Clifton Manufacturing and met his future wife Faye Dollins.

Faye's occupation was a teacher but was working at a summer job for the Clifton Co. of Waco. Faye was from Penelope, Texas where another one of the famous state basketball champions played, All-State Charlene (Hodde) Walker. Charlene later married the writer's cousin Thomas Walker and the Walkers reside in Hubbard, Texas.



Jim had met Faye while working together and asked her if she knew Jim and Mary Cecile (Nemecek) Greene. He asked Faye for a date to go to a rodeo with the Greens but the rodeo was rained out and they went bowling instead. (Evidently, that's what it took because they were married a year later in 1961.)

Just before Jim went into the Guard, he and some buddies were at the Logan Huffman arena just out of Hewitt and Jim got on one of Raymond Booth's bulls. The bull fell upside down on Jim and it so happened that Billy Willis of the famous Willis brothers of West, Texas was filming it so that little wreck is recorded.

One year just at Christmas time, there was an open jackpot held there around Waco with Ed Dodwell fighting bulls and Leo Becker was the judge. Jim won second over Dan Willis but Dan thought his bull was better. Well, that's bullriding!

Episode at Rocksprings: He worked for Moco Emery of Waco for a few years and he and Moco went to Rocksprings, Texas to look at some horses at one of the Shanklin's ranches. Some way or another they ended up in different vehicles and got separated for several hours. That little episode caused them to be very late getting back to Waco due to the mix-up. Jim worked for Emery for a few more years and then went back to work for the City of Waco and finally retired.

Jim started a bullriding school there at his home on Orchard (Cowboy) Lane in 1987 so that all of the young bullriders in the area could get some practice. (If you don't know where Orchard "Cowboy" Lane is just ask Butch and Ginger Wardlaw!) He still has the practice ridings at his arena even though he directs the activities on his golf cart. His flank man is ten year old nephew Cody Dollins who is becoming an accomplished hand on the steers and bulls. Jim has had many famous bullriders who have practiced there. One of these is Waco's own, Blu Bryant who won \$28,200.00 and first place, entered as an alternate, at the H.O.T. Extreme Bull-riding in 2003.

Jim's philosophy is that God won't let you go beyond anything you can't handle. He says his riders get together and pray before they ride. Hey, it's a very dangerous and tough sport, that's not a bad idea!

Jim died in October 2004 after a lengthy illness.

