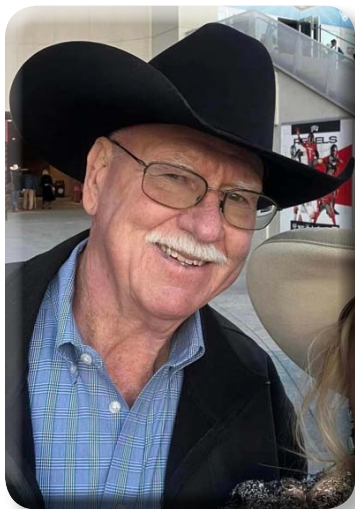




ALL COWBOY & ARENA CHAMPIONS HALL OF FAME

Gary Parli

2023 ACACHOF Inductee



43 Years in Rodeo

Rodeo clown Gary Parli from Morrison, Oklahoma was selected by the top twenty bull riders in the PRCA to serve as barrelman for the National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City in 1976. He was twice selected as alternate barrelman for the NFR. He was also selected by the top 15 riders to work the Prairie Circuit Finals three times and the Great Lakes Circuit Finals once.

Gary started competing in rodeos when he was in high school. While in college, he discovered a demand for clowns and bullfighters. He needed entry money and decided to try his hand at the risky profession. Gary found the clowning business to be an exciting summer activity and it just “got in his blood”. Hall of Fame clown and bullfighter, Buck LeGrand was a mentor and had great influence on Gary. In 1964 he clowned his first rodeo and got his RCA card in 1967. After a career of 43 years in the arena his last performance was in 2007 at a rodeo in Perry, Oklahoma.

Having performed at rodeos in 30 states and three Canadian provinces he was featured at some of the best rodeos in North America. Some of those rodeos were Elk’s Helldorado Days in Las Vegas, Days of 47 in Salt Lake City, the college NIRA finals in



Bozeman MT, the Days of 76 in Deadwood, SD, the Central States Fair and Rodeo in Rapid City, SD, Guymon, OK and the celebrated Calgary Stampede. In October of 1992, Gary Parli received the great honor of clowning the Madison Square Garden rodeo in New York City.

After graduating from Oklahoma State University in 1967, Gary took a position as head Vo-Ag teacher at Caney High School. Later he was an agri-business instructor at Labette Community College in Parsons, KS where he also coached a very competitive NIRA rodeo team. Members of his team included Tyler Mangus, Wes Ward, Ervin Williams, Ron Gilbert and Donnie Vitt.

Today, Gary lives in Stillwater, Oklahoma but still runs some cows on land near Morrison in Noble County.