

R. B. Wilson By Connie Wilson
May 19, 1925 - October 27, 2014

2005 Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame
2007 TRCHF Inductee (See Page 415)



R. B. Wilson was raised on his family ranch that was established in 1900 near Dripping Springs, Texas. His family had farmed the country in the early years and raised sheep, goats and cattle. At the age of 78, he still resides on and operates the ranch.

His love for roping and rodeo started early in his life. He and friends had gone to a couple of local events and R. B. decided he wanted to rope. He devised a place to practice by building a catch pen with a ramp up the side of the fence so the goats could ran

up the ramp, jump out of the catch pen and back into the wide open spaces of the pasture where R. B. was sure to rope them. He and his dog Tip would pen a few goats and the fun would begin. If the goats didn't want to go up the ramp, Tip would see that they did. He and Tip spent many hours in that pen.

In 1947, he began working as a Brand Inspector for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and day worked cattle for surrounding ranchers. He was well known for his ability to "get what he went after". This tradition carried on in tracking down cattle thieves when he became a Field Inspector for the TSCRA and was commissioned as a Special Texas Ranger. He retired from the TSCRA in March of 1995.

R. B. worked as a pick-up man for producers from Tom Carson of Austin in the forties, to George Haynes, T. C. "Buck" Steiner, Tommy Steiner, Don Mueller of Mueller Rodeo Company, E. A. Sladeck, Lloyd Woodley, Sloan Williams and Buddy Shanklin of the Rocksprings Rodeo Association in the sixties. He and Ed Luerson picked up the 4th of July Rodeo at Rocksprings for seven straight years.

He trained and rode many good horses throughout his lifetime. He roped calves, steers and team roped with some of the best. He and his gray horse "Gray Dutchman" were a well recognized team. A stunning picture of this great gray horse hangs in the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame.

He has a large collection of trophy buckles dating from 1953 through 1985. He carried an R.C.A. card for several years but only made the close rodeos. He placed at Houston in the late fifties. He won the George West Texas Police Officers Rodeo Association All Around in 1985 and then hung it up.

R.B. married Doris Carson on January 1, 1947. He and Doris raised three daughters - Janie, Connie and Judy - who loved to Rodeo and helped their Dad work cattle. R.B. had five grandchildren - Jymmy Kay Cox, Jo Cox Kirby, Cade Keith and Katie Midkiff. After Doris passed away in 1982 R.B. married Julia Doherty. They enjoyed 31 years together until R.B. passed in 2014.

He lives by the motto "A man is only as good as the horse he's riding". He was one awesome cowboy and Old Gray was one awesome cowhorse.

R. B. also served in the Marines during World War II being in Japan, Saipan and several other places.