



Leon Bauerle

Travis County, Texas 2003 Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame



Leon Bauerle was born on July 17, 1938 in Travis County, Texas and grew up on his family's ranch in Manchaca, Texas. In high school, Leon began what would be his continuous, life long participation in the sport of rodeo. He varied his interest of the events in the beginning with bareback riding, calf roping and bulldogging. He made it up rodeo's first step by qualifying in the 1956 High School State Finals, which in those days, were held in Hallettsville, Texas.

Certainly, as soon as his Army duty was over and none too soon, his friends might add, Leon really began his professional rodeo career, with membership to what was then called the "Rodeo Cowboy Association" and proved his card worthiness with his first major win at the Denver, Colorado rodeo in the steer wrestling event.

Although he still roped calves, his attention was turned mainly to the steer wrestling event and as the sixties were in motion, Leon was to come out a winner in all the big indoor winter rodeos such as Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston in 1973. In those days, he traveled and competed with comrades and fellow cowboys such as Benny and Willard Combs, Jim Bynum, Bobby Joe Bartley, Roy Duvall, Tommy Puryear and countless other rodeo greats.

Leon trained and hauled his team of horses and, of course they had not just a little bit to do with the winning runs he had. One of the famous dogging teams were "Smoke and Blue" and dogging horses "Red Wing", "Dunney" and "Mickey". Many cowboys remember these great athletes as well.

Leon Bauerle qualified for the National Finals Rodeo seven times between 1962 and 1975 in steer wrestling. In addition to his PRCA Gold Card status, he was the OTRCA Champion in 1987, 1988 and



1989. He has been to the Texas Circuit Finals numerous times in three decades and in the 1990s, has been to the CPRA Finals four times. To date, Leon is still training bulldogging horses for top rodeo contenders.

These days you might hear about Leon's son Brian Bauerle who is following in his father's steps and doing quite well for himself. Leon married the absolute best choice for his partner in life, Cyndi. Truly, the many people who know these two will vouch that they are an enduring and winning team.

Leon, by most observation, is a professional, reserved man. He never appears to have a speech to give and is pure class through and through. Leon has made many, many friends through the years and they range from old great big and small, to youngsters barely starting out. Leon truly is awe inspiring to many in that he and Cyndi are still involved with so many people because of rodeo and his other life long love, ranching.

When you are in conversation and Leon Bauerle's name comes up, you can bet you'll hear how the ranch and all the wildlife is faring down south, as well as how the rodeo sport is treating him these days. And almost without exception, you'll hear someone say, "He's still a goin'".