



## Edward "Ed" Lee Cole

21 Years in Rodeo

Born 1930 - Died April 10, 2009



Ed Cole was a lifelong cowboy, a humble, man of few words but with a quick wit that many attest to. He believed his actions and accomplishments spoke for him.

Ed, one of 10 children, was born and raised in Alvin, Texas. His father was a railroad man for Santa Fe Railroad and his mother worked for a local physician. He started rodeoing at the age of 16. In fact, he had to quit high school athletics because he had won money riding bulls and was ineligible to play high school sports

under UIL rules. Ed graduated from Alvin High School in 1949 and attended Allen Academy for a year on a basketball scholarship. In 1950, he won his first bull riding title in the Southwestern Rodeo Association (SRA) and was runner up for the All-Around title. The following year he had achieved the Bull Riding and the All-Around title for the year.

His time in college was cut short by a tour of duty in the Army during the Korean War. While stationed in Oklahoma in the Army, Ed met Freckles Brown at a rodeo and they became friends. While in the Army and shortly after his return from Korea, he spent time in Oklahoma traveling to rodeos with Freckles.

In 1954, Ed returned home to Alvin, married, and started back rodeoing locally in the SRA. In 1955, he took up where he left



off winning the All-Around, Bull riding, and Saddle bronc titles. During the 1956 rodeo season Ed went to work for Frank Harris on the T-Diamond Ranch in West Columbia, Texas, working cows and assisting with rodeos the ranch produced. Ed and his wife lived on the ranch where they raised 3 sons and a daughter. In 1956 & 1957 he captured the All-Around, Bull riding, and Saddle bronc titles and added the Steer wrestling title to his honors. In 1958 & 1959 he won the All-Around, Bull riding, and Saddle bronc titles.

During the 60's he won the All-Around title 3 times, Bull riding title once, the Saddle bronc title twice and the Steer wrestling title 5 times.

In 1971, Ed won his final championship title in Steer wrestling. The summer of 1971 was a tragic year for all when Mr. Harris passed on. The ranch finished producing rodeos that season and then sold the bucking stock and equipment. After the death of Mr. Harris and the sale of the bucking stock, Ed retired from rodeoing. Mrs. Harris remained in the cattle business and Ed remained the foreman on the T-Diamond until her passing in 1992. From 1992 until his death in 2009, Ed pursued his love of ranching, raising horses and cattle on his ranch.

Ed's rodeoing career spanned 21 years, winning 9 All-Around Cowboy titles, 23 individual event titles and 11 times runner-up in the Southwestern Rodeo Association.

Ed passed away April 10th, 2009 at the age of 78.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

### **Championship Titles**

9 times All-Around Cowboy

1951, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1962, 1963, 1964

8 times Bull Riding Champion

1950, 1951, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1963

7 times Saddle Bronc Riding Champion

1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1962, 1963

8 times Steer Wrestling Champion

1956, 1957, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1971

**Runner-Up**

3 times All-Around Cowboy  
1950, 1960, 1965

2 times Bull Riding  
1960, 1964

1 time Saddle Bronc Riding  
1960

3 times Steer Wrestling  
1959, 1962, 1963

2 times Bareback Riding  
1955, 1957

In 2009, the Texas House of Representatives Recognized him in Resolution H.R. No. 1747 81R27231 JNC-D.