



Joe Charles Hileman

Bareback Ridre



Joe Charles Hileman, or “Big Joe” as he was known to his friends, started riding bulls at the age of 17. Having never been on a bull in his life he got on his first one at the Beaumont YMBL rodeo in 1961. Although he got bucked off the thrill was in his blood.

Big Joe started traing on green bulls that Johnny Ackels was always glad to provide to young, aspring bull riders. Joe would go to Ackels ranch and get on green horses and bulls to see if they would buck good enough to make a good rodeo prospect. Joe rode bulls for the first 10 years (1961-1971) then went to riding bareback horses (1972-1984).

He was a member of the IRA (International Rodeo Assn.) The



LRA (Louisiana Rodeo Assn.) and the TRA (Texas Rodeo Assn.).

He obtained his PRCA permit and rode in Las Vegas Helldorado Days, Lake Charles, Mesquite, Beaumont YMBL and numerous other PRCA rodeos. In the years of 1979-1982 Joe competed in TRA rodeos and qualified for the TRA Finals. In 1972 and again in 1979 he won the Bareback riding Championship in the LRA for the year. In 2003 he was inducted as a lifetime member to the Louisiana Cowboys Assn. HOF.

He has fond memories of his days rodeoing at places like Aldine's Circle 8, Tin Top, Dayton FFA rodeo, Gilley's and all the rodeo's in East Texas and Louisiana that he could get too. He traveled with some of the greats to come out of Southeast Texas and Louisiana such as DICKIE Richards, Mutt Newman, Jimmy Ray Sullivan, Kevin Marshall and a host of others. He rode till he was 40 with the "normal" amount of injuries that come with this great way of life. He says if he could he would do it all over again, but wouldn't we all.

We are blessed to live the life most folks only dream about.