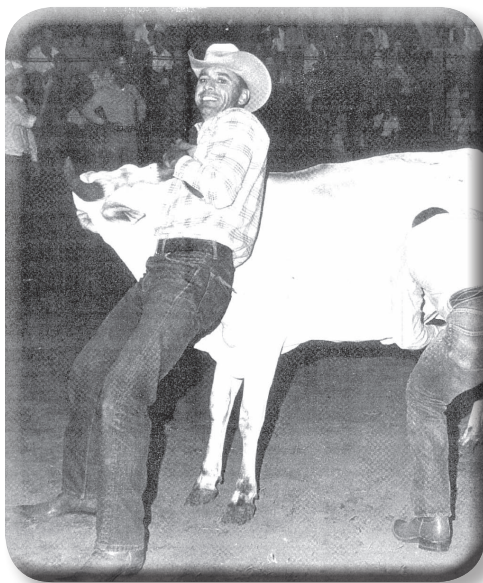




ALL COWBOY & ARENA CHAMPIONS HALL OF FAME

Weldon and Bobbie Hughes



Velma Hughes at Delia, Texas. He grew up working on the family farm, of course riding horses, calves, etc. He attended school at Hubbard, Texas for a while where he acquired the nickname ‘Cowboy’ Hughes because he was always riding his horses. He married Bobbie ‘Cox’ in 1948 and they had three boys Gary, David and Van. Van excelled on the football field and played pro football for a number of years.

Weldon’s first bull ride came at Mexia, Texas when a bullrider didn’t show up. Weldon took the bull and was

he only rider to ride that night. “I would have won the go-round but wasn’t officially entered so they only paid me mount money”. Doc Spence’s Triangle Bell out of Belton had that show, all of this occurred circa 1946.

There were many riders, rough stock and ropers at that rodeo who are now in various Halls of Fame. Weldon joined RCA in the bareback event but, “I was too tall and too big (6’2”, 180 pounds) so decided to compete in the bullriding event.” He also roped and was a ‘mugger’ for cowboys in the wild-cow milking event and



won that event many times over a twenty year span.

He rode bulls about five years but knew the danger of riding so decided to quit and raise his family. Dan Willis asked Roland Reid who the best bullrider who had ever followed his shows was. Roland replied, "Weldon Hughes was probably one of the best bullriders that ever followed my rodeos. He would just pull his bull rope up, push that chest out and up, get out over them and with that great strength he had, he was hard to buck off." Weldon quoted, "I never hung up and was never hurt bad and didn't have to take the 'death dally' because the bulls just couldn't take the rope away from me."

Weldon rode several great bulls that had never been ridden prior to his drawing them. He rode #97(Alamo) of Triangle Bell and also 'Ball of Fire' of Roland Reid's string. Later both of these bulls respectively were ridden by Harold Watson and Bernis Johnson, who are both in the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame at Belton, Texas.

Some years later, Weldon was at a practice bullriding at Fairfield where his nephew was competing. The locals urged him to show them how to ride instead of just tell them. "I felt like I could, so I got on one and he stretched my arm out real bad and I found out I couldn't still get the job done."

L. N. Sikes was his hero and he would go with L. N. to the rodeos and learn a lot about roping from the famed cowboy. Some of the people that were rodeoing around the same area at that time with Weldon were Elmer Krueger, Bates Savage, Deane Cry, Buck Wilson, Ed and Johnny Boren, Harold Watson, Bill and Red Walker, Bud Humphrey, Man 'O' Miles, Bill Dunlap, Curtis Burlin, J.D. Middleton, 'Bully' Smithson, 'Cotton' Garrett, to name a few. Others included Buck Warren, Tom Tennyson, Lightning Cartwright, Red Neal, the Hammock brothers, Mary Clark, Tex Lewis, George Wilderspin, L. N. Sikes, Sonny Sikes, etc.

He judged rodeos in the Central Texas area for forty plus years, the last one being Teague around 2000. He judged with Bill Dunlap, J. D. Middleton and others. He really liked working for Lloyd Woodley and worked for him every chance he got. Some of the producers he judged for included Loyd Woodley's, Roland Reid's, Bradford Ivy, Logan Huffman's and several others.

Weldon worked for General Tire of Waco, Texas, ranched and bought and sold horses all of the years he was judging rodeos. He still buys and sells horses and stock at Axtell where he and wife Bobbie enjoy their family and grandchildren.