



Vela & Son Rodeo

Rudy & Richard Vela



Rudy Vela of Edinburg, Texas started his rodeo stock contracting company in the early 1960's. He produced open and NIRA College rodeos until 1979 when his bulls were selected to participate at the Superbull in Del Rio, Texas, the first stand-alone bull riding. The Superbull was an invitational where the top 35 PRCA riders competed in a two head bull riding. Rudy was known as "The Bull Man" and had a reputation for having some of the

best bulls. After the dust settled at Del Rio, all of the PRCA stock contractors encouraged and backed Rudy in obtaining his PRCA Stock Contractor card.

Rudy's bull, V61 was awarded the prestigious honor of Bull of the Year and featured in Life Magazine. V61 would later be inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame. Vela Rodeos became Vela and Son. His son Richard was following in Rudy's knowledge of top bucking bulls. In 1984, Vela and Son had several bulls chosen for the NFR at Oklahoma City. At that time, Richard was only 12 years old, but flanking all of the Vela bulls. In 1985 at Cheyenne Frontier Days, each round of bull riding, including the short go, was won by winning rides on Vela bulls.

Vela and Son subsequently produced many PRCA rodeos throughout Texas and other states, continuing to have bulls selected for the NFR, which had moved to Las Vegas, Nevada. Vela and Son bulls continued to perform at most major rodeos throughout



the U.S. such as Pendelton, OR, Cheyenne, WY, Denver, CO, San Antonio, TX and many more.

Rudy has passed on to the big arena in the sky, but Richard continues to supply top notch bulls to major competitions.

By: Terry Bowen