

TRIBUTE TO C+ RODEO

Born in the Cariboo and raised by ranching parents who moved to the area in 1961 from Redding, California, two brothers were introduced to the Rodeo lifestyle as young children... those two brothers are here with us today ... Roy and Earl Call.

The time has come to say farewell to Roy and Earl of C+ Rodeo Stock after almost 40 years in the business. They have sold their business but we all know that they will be in the wings should the new owners ever need them.

I'd like to share a little history of the boys growing up:

In 1961 Roy and Earl's grandparents - on their mothers side - bought what is now the C+ Rodeos ranch. Their mother, Carol fell in love with their ranch hand Basil, and soon the two married and moved to their own ranch in an area known as the Moose Horn 26 miles away.

Soon came the boys and in 1970 the family moved back to the ranch, that is now their generational home, as Carol and Basil became equal partners in the ranching outfit - where they raised 250 head of commercial Hereford cattle.

When they weren't on the ranch tending to their herd, they were rodeoing. Their dad Basil rode bucking horses and roped while their mom Carol barrel raced and roped as well, often teaming up with her sons.

When the boys were around 7 & 8 - their parents good friend thought they should be playing hockey as well and therefore he put them on a Team. Little did they know at that time, that in later years, Roy would go on to Coach the Midget girls to a BC Championship win. This was several years ago and his daughter Brooke played on that Team! Earl also coached the sport with his two daughters playing as well.

Roy started out as a youngster showing 4H steers while Earl was busy cow riding. When they were around 18 and 19 they would all load into their Mom's van, with as many friends as they could pack in and head off to the Rodeo!

As the boys grew into their teenage years, with their love of rodeo igniting a passion in them the boys took on a new project. Starting out small, nearly 40 years ago in 1984, Roy and Earl started buying bulls for Rodeo stock from Kenny Pearson. At that time, good friend Rudy Ostrem brought the horses to the rodeo's, and soon a new stock contracting company would start in BC. Then, approximately 15 to 20 years ago they started raising their own bulls, those we all know today.

Over the years they loved watching their calves turn into top notch bucking bulls winning many Championships over the years. The same goes for the horses - definitely a feather in their cap watching their animals excel in the Rodeo World.

C+ Rodeo's has certainly been a family affair over the years. Now a 4th generation ranch, Roy, Earl and all their children along with Grandpa Basil and Grandma Carol all worked so hard on the ranch to maintain their families dream. Roy and Earl's children, Cody, Isabelle, Brooke, and Paige went to the rodeos alongside their dads - every weekend as they grew up.

As the years passed by, Earl's daughters, Isabelle and Paige went off to university and Roy's son Cody began learning the ropes of bullfighting from his uncle. It wasn't long before Cody grew into the bullfighter our riders know today, while Roy's daughter Brooke was her Dad's right hand man, working alongside him - with Grandma Carol pitching in to continue helping where she could, since the passing of their father Basil in 2015. They all love to go home when they can and continue to help out at the Rodeo's - bringing along many of their friends and putting them to work!

At the start of his rodeo career Roy rode bulls, and fought bulls for over twenty years. During this period he was selected to fight bulls over a dozen times for the amateur rodeo finals. Over the years, Roy found his calling handling the logistics of the C+ Rodeos operation, including flanking the bucking horses and bulls - making sure the competitors have the best stock they possibly can, and showing new competitors the ropes. Roy's tasks are 365 days a year.

Many times over the years Earl received the prestigious honours of being named "Bullfighter of the Year" and then went on to the same accolades as "Pick-Up Man" of the Year. His quick thinking and horsemanship skills have helped many a man dismount safely along with all his skills at distracting the bulls while protecting the Bull rider. But this wasn't his only job. When he wasn't in the arena keeping our cowboys safe, he was competing alongside them, boasting the title of champion in three decades. As an all around cowboy he competed in team roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, bareback riding and bullriding. Going on to win many buckles in each of these events.

Over the years and since the late 80's C+ Rodeo has worked at some of the largest Rodeos across the Country - including the Canadian Finals Rodeo and Calgary Stampede. Not only did they partner with the BCRA but also BC High School Rodeo and various events throughout the Province to keep the Sport of Rodeo alive and strong. Many times over the years their Bulls or Horses were voted in as the top 4 legged athletes of the Year by the contestants.

Roy and Earl you should be very proud of how hard you have worked over the years to raise the beautiful pens of animals that you have displayed throughout your Stock Contracting years.

We know this is a very emotional day for the Call Family and we want you to know that we *tip our hats to you and wish you nothing but the finest life has to offer.*

Happy Trails to Roy, Earl and all your C+ families