

## **REDDING RODEO HALL OF FAME – CLASS OF 2023**

### **JOHN BALMA – Redding Rodeo President 1984 & 1985**

In 1939 John joined the Redding Police Department as a Patrolman after Graduating from San Jose State College. In 1941, at the age of 22, Balma was appointed Chief of Police of the Redding Police Department, making him the youngest Chief of Police in the United States.

In 1943, Chief Balma requested and received a leave of absence to join the armed services. He was with the 16<sup>th</sup> Air Force a nose gunner on a B-24 and flew 16 missions over the Ploesti Oil Fields. Upon discharge from the service, John returned to his position of Chief of Police, a position he held until 1946 when he resigned to run for the Office of Sheriff. He won the election and was sworn in and assumed the duties of Sheriff in January 1947 until November 1982.

In 1948, Balma was instrumental in moving a small horse show and rodeo that had been held in Anderson, California to Redding. The area that was once gravel and scrap from the building of Shasta Dam became home to the Redding Rodeo. In the early 1980's it was decided that the Posse would become the Redding Rodeo Association and their trademark red shirts were born. John held the position of Redding Rodeo President in 1984 – 1985. John helped form what is now known as the 6 Pac Rodeo group, consisting of 6 major rodeos in California. He served as the 6 Pac president for many years, taking rodeo to the next level.

### **JOHN PAYNE – The One-Armed Bandit – 15-time PRCA Specialty Act of the Year**

John S. Payne, the notorious One Arm Bandit, credits John Balma and the Redding Rodeo for launching his illustrious career as entertainer extraordinaire in rodeo.

On June 12, 1973, while tearing a house down for his dad and thinking the electricity had been shut off, John climbed an electric pole to cut some wires 7,200 volts of electricity ran through his entire body for an unbearable 10 seconds. After 5 weeks in the Tulsa burn center, John checked himself out and went home to start breaking a horse he had bought while in the hospital. In 1975 John took a liking to Judy Crabtree and they married. John and Judy are responsible for what is now the most sought-after gang in the rodeo world today, The One Arm Bandit Gang.

John's connection with Redding Rodeo is strong! John Balma took a chance on the new act "The One-Armed Bandit" and brought John to Redding in 1988 helping put John on the path to entertain rodeo fans worldwide.

**STERLING "PETE" LAMBERT – Shasta County Sheriff's Posse President 1969**

Sterling "Pete" Lambert moved to Redding in the 1950s and joined the association in 1954 when it was originally the Shasta County Sheriff's Posse. He's a past president and past drill master of the association. Pete was a World War II veteran, where he served in the Army Air Corps as a lead pilot in B-17Gs on six of 35 missions. Pete began his military career on May 19, 1942. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters as well as two Bronze Stars and a Presidential Citation.

After serving his country honorably and faithfully, Pete attended UC Davis, where he studied veterinary medicine. He worked at McColl's Dairy as the plant manager for 20 years. He then worked 16 years as a Shasta County Sheriff's Deputy in charge of animal control, before retiring in 1982. Pete also worked as a security guard at the Veterans Affairs Out-Patient Clinic in Redding during his retirement years.

Pete was a Mason, a member of the Scottish Rites, the Shriners, the American Legion and the VFW. Pete passed away at the age of 102 years old on November 7, 2022

**RALPH MORS - 1979 and 1997 & 1998 Shasta County Sheriff's Posse President**

**AND JEANNE MORS – 7 Time Redding Rodeo Auxiliary President**

The Redding Rodeo is built on the members and their families who have given so much. Power couple Ralph and Jeanne Mors epitomize the selfless volunteers that have made 75 years of Buckin by the River possible.

Ralph began his involvement in the Shasta County Sheriff's Posse in the 60's helping guide the rodeo to a major event. He served as President of the Posse in 1979 and also served as the drill master. He passed away on December 22, 2004 at the age of 76.

Jeanne Mors is the longest running member of the Redding Rodeo Auxiliary and the keeper of Redding Rodeo History! She has given so many years Auxiliary – a group that supports the Redding Rodeo Association in many ways. She began the Helping Hands group within the Auxiliary in 1970 to help those connected to the Redding Rodeo when they need a boost. The Chicks and Chaps fundraiser that the Redding Rodeo Auxiliary that raises money for local breast cancer research and support is a favorite of Jeanne's.

### **RED ROCK -1987 PRCA Bucking Bull of the Year**

Red Rock was born in 1976 at the Burnt River Ranch in Burns, Oregon. Orphaned as a small calf, he was raised in the family's backyard by the owner's milk cow. He was purchased by stock contractor Mert Hunking from Sisters, Oregon as a 2-year-old. Mert noticed that Red Rock was smarter than the typical bull. In 1984, Hunking contacted John Growney about the bull's potential and John and his partner Don Kish ended up purchasing Red Rock.

Red Rock started bucking in the PRCA in 1983 and retired unriden after 309 attempts after the 1987 National Finals Rodeo. His retirement was brief. In 1988, John Growney created the "Challenge of the Champions." This seven-ride match pitted Red Rock, 1987 PRCA Bucking Bull of the Year, against Lane Frost, 1987 world bull riding champion. Frost finished with a 4-3 advantage, but it did more to Red Rock's fame than his previous 309-0 record. His place in PRCA and Redding Rodeo history was cemented on May 20, 1988 when Lane Frost rode him for the first time ever in the historic Redding Rodeo Arena. The meeting of Champions was featured in the movie "8 Seconds" but they changed the location of this historic ride.

In 1990 he was the third bull to be inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Red Rock retired at the Growney Brothers Ranch in Red Bluff, Calif., and died in 1994.

### **LANE FROST 1987 WORLD CHAMPION BULL RIDER**

Frost was born Oct. 12, 1963, in La Junta, Colorado. He was as well-known for his friendly smile and magnetic personality as for his bull riding excellence. Frost credited his father, Clyde, and his friend and mentor, the late Freckles Brown, with teaching him to ride bulls.

On Friday, May 20, 1988, Lane would be the first bull rider to cover Red Rock successfully at the Redding Rodeo in front of a sold-out crowd at the Redding Rodeo in the famous "Challenge of Champions." The 7-time matchup between the two shot both to fame. In typical Lane style each time before riding Red Rock, he would go back to the pens and visit Red Rock and then prepare for his ride.

On Sunday, July 30, 1989, Lane drew Takin' Care of Business, of Bad Company Rodeo, at Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo after a successful ride and dismount, he was hit by the bull, breaking his ribs, severing an artery. Frost died within moments in the arena. He was laid to rest on August 2, 1989, at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Hugo, Oklahoma near friend and mentor Freckles Brown.