



Les Johnson (Riding Event Cowboy), Valley Center, California, was a multiple winner in the Saddle Bronc Riding at St. Paul Rodeo in 1956, 1958, & 1960. Les was born and raised in British Columbia and began breaking horses at age 12. He got bit by the rodeo bug in 1950, and traveled the US and Canada with five other "hands" beginning in 1953. Career highlights in addition to St. Paul include Bronc Riding wins at the Cow Palace, Moses Lake, Omak, Ellensburg, Albuquerque, El Paso, Omaha, Phoenix, Nampa, Red Bluff, and Pendleton Round-Up. Les qualified and placed 2nd at the first NFR in 1959. During those years, he competed with "toughs" like Casey Tibbs, Deb Copenhaver, Marty Wood, the Teschers, Enoch Walker, Guy Weeks, and Jackie Wright. Les, along with wife Judy, remain passionate rodeo fans and supporters.



Ed Brentano (deceased) (Rodeo General Membership), was a native St. Paul resident and long-time rodeo member along with his wife Carol. He joined the St. Paul Rodeo Association in 1959, a year before marriage – sponsored by his uncle Lawrence Bunning, a Director at the time. Ed loved to wear his cowboy hat during rodeo week and work behind the scenes; his position as a gateman committee co-chair gave him the opportunity to serve and welcome fans to St. Paul Rodeo. Ed and Carol's family has been raised in the western lifestyle. John & wife K'Lyn, Kathy & husband Greg, Dan & wife Tani, Pete & wife Wendy, and Peggy & husband Kevin are all SPR members. Son Tom & wife Janis will be joining us this year with their daughter Taylor, who won our SPR scholarship for a SPSHS graduate. For Ed, SPR always went well with God & Country. God Bless the USA!



Clay Finley (Timed Event Cowboy), Mt. Vernon, Oregon, was a multiple winner/fan favorite at St. Paul Rodeo in the late 70s & 80s and he reports that SPR is his favorite rodeo of all time! Clay won the Calf Roping Event here in 1975 & 1979 and he captured our All-Around title in 1975 & 1981. His father Ben Finley led him into the rodeo business, helping Clay get his Permit at age 12 (must be 18 today) and his PRCA card at age 16. Clay competed hard into the 90's and still goes for a little jackpot Team Roping. He runs the Silver Spur Café in Mt. Vernon with his wife Dale, and delivers mail to Pendleton several times per week. Their son Colt and daughter Candy also enjoy the western lifestyle, and two nephews – Chad Finley & Ty Holly are entered this year in our Tie-Down Roping.



William M. Smith Sr. (deceased) (St. Paul Rodeo Officers/Directors)

A lifelong resident of St. Paul and a son of the primary founder of St. Paul Rodeo, Bill was a SPR Director for 33 years between 1955 & 1988 and was President from 1971-74. He competed and performed at the rodeo in his youth including the Boy's Pony Race, Hop Buggy Race, Chariot Race, Roman Riding, and Wild Horse Race. Bill's title during his time on the Board was Arena Director, and so was horseback in the arena for all performances of SPR. Along with wife Donna (40 year ticket chair), Bill raised a family passionate about rodeo, especially St. Paul Rodeo. Son Bill with wife Cindy is a third-generation SPR Director and Arena Director, like his dad. Cheri & husband Phil and Lisa & husband Eric are also SPR members. Bill's grandchildren are set to become the next generation of SPR faithful!



Mary Ann Zielinski (Rodeo General Membership), Gervais, Oregon, is a St. Paul native and long-time rodeo member with her husband Glen. Mary Ann is well-known up and down the Willamette Valley for her voice and musical talent. She has been our premier National Anthem soloist at St. Paul Rodeo for 35 years now. She has braved the weather and arena soil, along with the firecrackers during the anthem, going back to America's Bi-Centennial year. Mary Ann is the music director at Gervais/St. Louis Catholic Parish and sings with the Willamette Master Chorus for fun. Her parents John & Priscilla Kirk raised a large family of SPR fans and volunteers, with Mary Ann leading the way. Brother John & wife Stacey, brother Chris, and sister Debbie & husband Mike are also SPR members.