

Mel Hyland (Riding Event Cowboy)



MEL HYLAND, of High Prairie, Alberta, Canada is a multiple year World and St. Paul Rodeo Champion in the Saddle Bronc event. He won SPR in 1971-72-76 and won the World in 72 and 76. He has made both the NFR and Canadian Finals 11 times in his career. He won the Canadian Bronc Riding Finals four times and was Canadian Bareback Champ in 1975. During his competing years, Mel lived in the Cloverdale/Surrey area of British Columbia.

Jean Manegre (Rodeo General Membership)



JEAN MANEGRE, St. Paul, Oregon worked on the SPR Ticket Committee for 20 years and was Co-Chair for at least half of those years. Jean recalls when she began volunteering for the rodeo in 1945, Alta Viesko and Kathleen Smith were Ticket Committee Co-Chairs. When Alta retired, Jean became Co-Chair with Kathleen Smith and upon Kathleen's retirement, Jean worked as Co-Chair with Donna Smith. When Jean was on the Trailride Breakfast Committee she remembers they made the batter for the buttermilk pancakes "from scratch." There was "no such word as NO when asked to work on a rodeo committee," says Jean.

Flint Rasmussen (Contract Personnel)



FLINT RASMUSSEN, of Choteau, Montana is the finest Clown that Rodeo and PBR have ever known. Argument with that statement would be feeble, if any! We, at St. Paul were privileged to have Flint with us for the same years that he was the Entertainer of Choice at the NFR. After 2008, Flint accepted a full-time exclusive contract with the PBR where he has become the Rock Star that he was always destined to be. His first career was as a High School math and history teacher in Havre, Montana, along with coaching track and football. The secret to Flint's success is a combination of athleticism and acting chops. He sings, dances, and has been known to "run the arborvitae" at St. Paul Rodeo.

Lawrence Henry Bunning (St. Paul Rodeo Officers/Directors)



LAWRENCE HENRY BUNNING (deceased). Lawrence lived in St. Paul, and spent 19 years on the SPR Board of Directors during the 40s, 50s, and 60s. Known locally as LHB, Lawrence farmed hops, strawberries, and other rotation crops west of town. While on the Board, he wore many hats, including that of Director of Security for the rodeo. He and his wife, Mary Brentano Bunning, hosted many girls from our rodeo courts at their home, and as a member of the Queen and Court Committee, Mary transported them to many appearances. In the early days of SPR, Lawrence's commitment to the rodeo included his personal guarantee at the bank to obtain financing to put on the show. One year, Donna Smith (Ticket Chair) was worried about ordering the ticket printing as it had to be paid up front. Lawrence gave her a signed check and said to use whatever she needed.

Justin McKee (Contract Personnel)



JUSTIN MCKEE, of Lenapah, Oklahoma is in his 12th year as Announcer of St. Paul Rodeo. He is the "TV Voice" of the PBR. The PBR's summer break with the Built Ford Tough Series, has provided the opportunity for Justin to continue announcing major PRCA Rodeos such as Cheyenne, Pendleton, Calgary, Ellensburg, and ST. PAUL during that summer break. He has become a co-host on the PRCA's preview show before each night's NFR telecast. Justin is known as the "Sultan of Simile" for his McKee-isms, such as "spinning like a weathervane in a hurricane," and "bucked off faster than the banker could tell me no." Justin has a ranch in Lenapah, where he lives with his wife Jeannie and daughter Kassidy.