

## **Salt Grass Trail Ride**

**Established in 1952**

**“Grand Daddy of Them All”**

Always a family tradition, the Salt Grass Trail ride is comprised of numerous family members participating in the true cowboy tradition of the old west, and ride 103 miles into Houston to promote the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

- At the young age of 92 years, John Heineike continues to drive wagons for the Salt Grass trail ride. This year he will be with Wagon 22, Texas Renegade. For more than 10 years John has driven wagons for numerous groups of Salt Grass, earning him the distinctive title of “Oldest Male Rider” on the trail. In addition to his commitment to the Salt Grass trail ride and the traditions it embodies he is proud to have served his country. On July 6, 1950, John enlisted in the US Airforce, his tour of duty included the Korean War and on September 3, 1953, he retired.
- For 35 years Connie Myers has been riding on the Salt Grass Trail ride Wagon 16, “The Rounders”; her son Ryder Gage has been right there with her for 24 of those years. As Connie affectionately puts, “he was riding in my belly before his feet hit the ground”! Ryder has been on the ride all his life and today is an official Scout for Salt Grass. Connie, a former Catalina Cowgirl for 25 years opened the official Houston Rodeo while expecting Ryder. Both mother and son are members of HLSR; the first committee Ryder was a member of was the Jr. Rodeo Committee, today he represents the Waller County Go Texan Committee. Both mother and son will once again be part of the 103-mile trek into Houston.
- One of the oldest wagons on the ride is Wagon 3. Originally built in 1800, it has been completely restored and will hit the trail on Saturday, February 17 at Wittenburg Pasture, Cat Spring TX. Three of the original Wagon members will take part in the christening, Tom Dompier, John Draper and 90-year-old Charles Pulido. Charlie as he is known by his fellow trail riders still takes part in the ride and is considered the oldest Wagon 3 veteran.

### **Generations of families take part in the Salt Grass trail ride:**

- Wagon 12- Brazos River Riders lead by Trail Boss Philip Fairchild has 3 generations of family members. Fairchild has been on this ride for over 40 years, along side him are his children and grandchildren.
- The Double M Trail riders: Wagon 15 is a fifth-generation family participant. Former trail boss Mitch Morgan rode with Salt Grass for over 50 years until his passing in 2023 Following in his grandfather and father’s footsteps Mitch instilled the love of horses and trail riding to his children and grandchildren. Son Cam Morgan is Wagon Boss, his grandsons Colton and Cash both participate in the ride, one as a Scout and the other as a flagbearer.

