

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

Winter 2004



# MAGAZINE



LA  
THE  
GRAND WHEEL

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**The Cover**  
*La Grande Wheel, the Western Hemisphere's tallest portable traveling wheel, makes its way from Arizona to Houston each year.*

**Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™**

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

*It doesn't seem possible, but the 2005 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is just around the corner. Even during the 2004 Show, volunteers, officials and staff were working on the 2005 Show to ensure the best yet.*

*Page eight of this issue highlights the major changes and additions to the 2005 Show.*

*As you will see, changes have been made to the schedule, a legendary venue is being used for an old favorite, and new entertainment opportunities will add to our ticket value. All this hard work comes from dedicated individuals with the purpose of producing the world's largest livestock show and rodeo.*

*In addition to these changes, Show officials also have raised the four-year scholarship amounts from \$10,000 to \$12,000. This is a huge step in our educational support programs – with ever-increasing tuition costs, more Texas youngsters will be able to attend college.*

*The Show, staying true to its mission – benefiting youth and supporting education – is continuously looking for ways to improve each year's Show, and we hope 2005 proves to be the biggest and best yet.*



# A Carnival Dynasty



**T**he Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™'s carnival has a long history and years of experience that it brings to the Show each and every year. Ray Cammack Shows truly is a carnival dynasty.

In 1949, in Pasco, Wash., Harley Leavitt, a home builder, had one home left to sell. Instead of selling the home, he made a trade — not for land or another house, but for a merry-go-round. That one merry-go-round eventually developed into a full-grown carnival called H.A. Leavitt Attractions, and later, Great Western Shows.

In 1956, in Lennox, S.D., Ray Cammack, lived next door to carnival owners and soon became the ride superintendent for their company. Eventually he bought a bumper car ride, and a few pieces of a merry-go-round. Not long afterwards, he, too, had a full-grown carnival, called Ray Cammack Shows.

Guy, Harley's son, and Charlene, Ray's daughter, met through Charlene's parents, when Guy worked for Ray after the Leavitts sold their carnival (only to get back into the industry years later with the purchase of their second carnival). When Guy and Charlene married in 1977, it was more than a personal union — in 1985, after the death of both their fathers, their families' companies merged under the name Ray Cammack Shows, which has grown into a carnival dynasty.

Guy is now president and CEO of RCS, a family-owned and-operated business recognized as a leader in the carnival and midway industry. Charlene serves as vice president of finance. Mark Leavitt, Guy's brother, is the company's operations director, while Chris Leavitt, Guy and Charlene's son, is the midway coordinator. Delia Ritter, Charlene's sister, is the corporate secretary/treasurer. Guy and Charlene's daughters Kim and Joy manage two food cafés each on the midway, and their oldest daughter, Jody, manages the Child Enrichment Center and a food café. And the list goes on: cousins, in-laws and friends all participate in a true family-run business.

RCS has been serving as the official carnival of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for a decade.

"We chose to use RCS back in 1994 as the Show's carnival because the company is first-class all the way, from top to bottom. Their long line of experience provides a carnival that is second to none when it comes to quality and safety of the carnival presentation," said Skip Wagner, vice president and chief operating officer of the Show.

Based in Laveen, Ariz., RCS makes the long trip each year to Houston. RCS travels 2,400 miles each year to attend the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, which is the only rodeo event that it attends and the first event of the year for the carnival company.

"The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is unique because it is the only event that we attend outside of Arizona and California," said Charlene.

After Houston, the RCS crew travels back to Arizona for a variety of April events, goes to California from the end of May to the middle of September for a long list of fairs and carnivals, and ends its traveling season in October at the Arizona State Fair.

Charlene said that when the crew packs up and makes its way from fair to fair, it is much like a "small traveling town."

"We have our own beauty salon (run by daughter Jody, a cosmetologist), a company store, an employee lounge and a day care facility," said Charlene.

RCS travels on the road with approximately 115 RVs, motor homes and bunkhouses, and nearly 400 tractor-trailers hauling



Guy and Charlene Leavitt



rides. It takes 20 tractor-trailers just to haul La Grande Wheel, which is the Western Hemisphere's largest portable Ferris wheel. La Grande Wheel, which made its debut on Feb. 13, 2001, at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, stands 15 stories and can carry 288 passengers.

Most RCS employees live on the grounds during a fair. The Child Enrichment Center is a preschool facility designed to provide day care for employees' children. The Center is operated by the parents and conducts Sunday school every Sunday. The school-age children travel back and forth with their mothers from Phoenix, Ariz., when school is in session, "keeping [a major airline] in business," stated Charlene.

RCS is known for an outstanding safety record, of which it is very proud. Each ride has its own ride supervisor, who is paid based on the percentages of riders that his or her ride receives.

Charlene said with that system in place, "The supervisors run the rides as their own — their trademark is on the rides."

The Leavitts work closely with the Show's Carnival Ticket Sales Committee, which is responsible for pre-selling discounted ticket/coupon books for the Show's carnival. Committee members also solicit donations to purchase carnival and admission tickets for children who might not otherwise be able to attend the carnival.

"We love to come to Houston because the volunteers are incredible! Their pre-sale program is one

of the best programs that I have seen," said Charlene.

While at the Show, carnival visitors have the opportunity to ride nearly everything from the fast and furious to slow and gentle. RCS brings Ferris wheels, roller coasters and bumper cars, as well as fun houses, games and carnival food, and has rides and games that cater to small children.

Charlene and Guy even get in on the fun. Charlene, who said both she and her husband ride their own rides, enjoys the slower-moving carousel or Ferris wheel, while Guy likes the wild roller coasters.

The carnival for the 2005 Show will be open Feb. 24 – 26 during the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest, and again during the run of the Rodeo and Livestock Show, March 1 – 20.



### *Carnival Values*

Get twice the ride tickets, plus special coupons for snacks and drinks with Carnival Value Paks available from the Carnival Ticket Sales Committee. Call 832.667.1080 for more details.

- \$10 Carnival Value Pak      20 ride coupons
- \$50 Carnival Value Pak      110 ride coupons

### *Carnival Facts*

- A large RCS midway requires 650 – 800 employees.
- The average number of toys given away at a large fair is 250,000.
- RCS travels approximately 5,000 miles in nine months.
- In the first year of carnival operation, RCS had five rides and 15 employees. Currently, RCS has 60 rides and approximately 750 employees at a large fair.
- At a large fair, RCS uses 10,000 pounds of sugar, 4,000 pounds of popcorn kernels, 37,500 apples and 75 cases of caramel dip. Approximately 45,000 corn dogs are sold at food stands. Guests eat nearly 30,000 bags of cotton candy.

# THE COWBOY SPIRIT

By Denise James

When Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame clown Wilber Plaugher and Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association champion steer wrestler Mark Schricker were traveling the ProRodeo circuit and Sunday rolled around, they usually were far from their home churches. To satisfy their spiritual hunger, they began conducting church services in 1973 at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ and at Cheyenne Frontier Days™.

Today, the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys, headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., conducts Cowboy Church during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. FCC is a nondenominational ministry with more than 60 chapters in the United States and Canada that caters to rodeo athletes and others leading a Western lifestyle. FCC President Grant Adkisson remembered the origin of FCC as the cowboy chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, begun through an affiliation with the late Dallas Cowboys professional football team coach, Tom Landry. “We functioned that way for the first 10 years or so, until incorporating as the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys,” Adkisson said.

As the American cowboy is a persona known around the world, “Cowboy Church” has become known throughout the PRCA. Depending on the location, 600 to 700 people — competitors, families, spectators and others — might be in attendance at a Sunday service at youth, college or professional rodeos, horse shows, roping events, and rodeo schools.

During the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Cowboy Church is held every Sunday morning and attracts a variety of guests, including rodeo contestants, Show members, Show staff and volunteers. “We’ve even attracted visitors who are out to see the exhibits and the Rodeo,” said the FCC’s national chapter director, Mike McArthur. “They read about us in the daily program, stop by to participate in our worship service and meet some of the competitors,” he added.

Each Cowboy Church service includes singing, scripture reading and a message, “just like a worship service in your hometown church,” said McArthur. “We even take up an offering.” Donations collected on Sunday mornings are used to support special music and to defer expenses incurred by the local FCC chapter in conducting services at the Show. In 2004, music for Cowboy Church was provided by three



*In a private moment, Jake Suckla of Slickrock, Colo., pauses before his ride.*

groups of local musicians: Branded, of Spring, Texas; Mike Hammock, of Nacogdoches, Texas; and Houston’s Bluegrass Solution.

“Cowboy’ is an attitude — a mind-set,” wrote Adkisson in the introduction to “The Way for Cowboys,” a pocket-sized version of the New Testament that is given freely to rodeo contestants and others by FCC members. In fact, rodeo athletes have been seen reading the book as they perform stretching exercises before competitions. “That’s very gratifying,” said Adkisson, “since we are an event-oriented ministry. We may only have a few minutes with a contestant there behind the chutes to talk, to listen or to pray with them, so it’s important to leave them with something they can look at and think about later.” People attending a Cowboy Church service also are encouraged to become involved with a local chapter of FCC or a church in their hometown.

Houston’s FCC chapter supports Cowboy Church and other related activities during the Show. Chapter President Darla Weaver started a hospitality room at the Show in 1997 that became affiliated with FCC in 1999. Today, 30 active members in the Houston chapter support the Cowboy Church activities at the Show. “Supporting the largest rodeo in the world is quite an undertaking,” Adkisson said with pride.

In 32 years of ministry, Adkisson has been a full-time evangelist for the last 10 years, giving three to four months a year of his time to FCC and Cowboy Church. He first became



*Cowboy Church worshippers bow their heads in prayer.*



*A true "pass the hat" collection.*

involved with Cowboy Church in 1974, when the founders called him from his church in Woodland Park, Colo., and asked him to preach on horseback in a corner of the arena at the Pike's Peak or Bust Rodeo in Colorado Springs. "We worked out of a horse trailer back then, passing out pony pops and sitting on a cooler," he remembered fondly. Now, with the help and support of the Houston FCC chapter, contestants at RODEOHOUSTON™ are offered hospitality in the form of food and refreshments each night during the Show.

In 2004, Ted and Linda Weise worked with the FCC to bring their great kitchen and cooking skills in the form of The Cowboy Bistro, a temporary, open-air diner under a large tent. Located at the Reed Road parking area, the Wieses served meals to rodeo contestants and their families who camped nearby in mobile quarters. "We are so proud of and grateful for this new ministry to athletes and their families, who many times just don't have the time or money to go out for food once they get here to compete," Adkisson said. The food, copies of "The Way for Cowboys" and other forms of hospitality all are given free of charge to those who need to be fed, both physically and spiritually. The FCC and its related ministries are tax-exempt organizations that raise support through the generosity of individuals who believe in each ministry.


McArthur, who has been with FCC for nine years, is a former member of the World Cup wrestling team and previously



*An enthusiastic and energized Grant Adkisson preaches his message at Cowboy Church.*

served on the staff of Athletes in Action (a sports ministry organization). He grew up in Minnesota and compared the skills of a wrestler to competing in rodeo rough stock events. "Bull riding is simple ... just stay on the bull for eight seconds," he said. "But, it's not easy — just like life. That's where we can really be of help to people. We've been there and understand." In addition to his work with FCC, McArthur holds coaching clinics for the FCA and assists with training wrestlers on both the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Olympic teams.

McArthur spoke proudly about how FCC also has branched into several other functions at rodeos and horse shows across the country. Rodeo Bible camps are sponsored each summer for hundreds of young people interested in improving their horsemanship and rodeo skills. Campers receive instruction from volunteers who include world champion cowboys and cowgirls. In 2004, FCC hosted 22 camps in six different states. Several of the current instructors are products of previous rodeo Bible camps and are currently participating and preaching on the college rodeo circuit.

The FCC also has a monthly magazine, "The Line Rider," and an official Web site: <[www.christiancowboys.com](http://www.christiancowboys.com)>. The testimony of professional bull rider Scott Mendes on the FCC Web site stated, "To a cowboy, success is usually determined by what belt buckle holds up your [jeans]." Cowboy Church is helping many discover a new definition of the word success. 

# From Wool to Wardrobe

By Beverly Rosenbaum



Used throughout history to make clothing and household items, wool is one of the few natural commodities that is biodegradable, renewable and recyclable. It also has an inherent environmental advantage because its growth is accomplished without the extensive use of herbicides and fertilizers. Although technological advancements have been made in the wool industry, many of the techniques used today have been utilized since ancient times.

Sheep were among the first domesticated animals, used for both food and wool. Sheep prosper across a wide variety of geographical areas. The first sheep reached the United Kingdom when Stone Age settlers crossed what now is known as the English Channel. Babylonians, famous for their sheep's wool, first distinguished food sheep from wool sheep as far back as 1800 B.C. The oldest surviving wool cloth has been found in Denmark, dating to 1500 B.C.

During the Middle Ages, wool became England's main trade export, but the finest wool came from merino sheep raised in Spain by the Basques, whose reputation as the most able shepherders in the world continues to the present day.

Sheep became more widespread, arriving in Australia in 1788. England tried to prevent the arrival of sheep in the New World, but English settlers recognized the importance of the woolly animals and bought sheep from Dutch settlers. The sheep industry became so popular in the Colonies that children in Massachusetts were required to learn spinning and weaving. Britain's attempt to cripple the wool industry in this country was one of the contributing factors to the American Revolution. Today, sheep are raised in all 50 states, with most of the United States' wool production coming from Texas sheep.

The processing of wool into yarn begins with shearing. Sheep continuously grow a wool coat, and once a year (usually in the spring), this wool is sheared off the animal. A good shearer can handle 125 sheep a day. The shorn wool coat is called fleece.

Centuries of selective breeding have produced more than 30 grades of wool; the finest are reserved for luxury garments, and the coarsest are used for blankets, tapestries and carpets.

After shearing, raw wool must pass through several cleaning steps to remove dirt, grease and other impurities. This process, known as "scouring," might not completely purge all organic matter, so excessively soiled wool must go through another process known as "carbonizing" — a treatment using sulfuric acid and heat. The wool is steeped in a weak solution of the acid and then subjected to sufficient heat to





convert the disintegrated material into carbon. Jets of air remove any remaining impurities.

Next, the wool fibers undergo a series of steps, called “carding,” to prepare the wool for spinning. This can be accomplished manually by using a pair of wooden paddles with wire faces or on a large scale with machine-driven drums covered with fine wire teeth. The wool fibers are dis-entangled and divided into narrow continuous strips, which are collected on large spools that will be placed on the spinning frame to make yarn. At this stage, the strips have no twist but are held together by oil and natural hooks in the surface of the wool fibers.

The spinning wheel, which evolved over a long period of time, twists fiber into thread. The spindle of ancient times, a stick with a weight attached, was turned on its side some-time between A.D. 500 and A.D. 1000 in China or India to produce a simple wheel-driven spindle with a basic pulley system. It reached Europe by the 12th century, and, by the 14th century, the English mounted it on a table. By the beginning of the 16th century, a bobbin/flyer mechanism was continuous and faster spinning. A foot pedal, or treadle, was added some-time in the 17th century. The spinning process adds the actual twist and turns it into yarn, which is collected on bobbins. Yarn from the bobbins is transferred to cones for use in weaving and knitting machines.

Every culture developed some sort of spinning wheel in order to produce yarn to weave into cloth before factory-spun yarn and mill-woven cloth were available. Colonists brought the design of a large spindle wheel to North America. Later, European immigrants brought the styles of spinning wheels found in their home countries. Today, hobby handspinners all over the world still are trying to build better ones.

A loom is a framework across which yarns or threads are stretched for the weaving of cloth or fabric. The lengthwise warp threads — the backbone of the weaving structure —

are aligned on a loom before the weaving begins. Horizontal threads woven across the warp are called the weft or woof, and form a pattern in the fabric.

The two main classifications of fabric made from this yarn are woolens and worsteds. Woolens utilize short coarse fibers that have a lower twist and tensile strength and that produce a bulky or uneven, soft, fuzzy appearance. While

not as durable, they tend to have a heavier weight. In comparison, worsteds are light-weight, thinner, longer fibers with higher tensile strength and tighter twist.

Although the process of making fabrics from wool, which for centuries had only been done by hand, and mostly in homes, underwent a change in the late 18th century as inventors developed equipment that could mechanize the work and move it to large-scale factories, the traditional handcraft continues to be practiced by modern fiber artists. The Contemporary Handweavers of Houston annually provides volunteers and equipment to demonstrate spinning and weaving techniques in a special exhibit in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™’s Destination: AGVENTURE.

Sheep’s wool is the most popular fiber among hand-spinners because it is versatile and easy to spin. Each

breed of sheep produces a unique type of wool, which can be blended together in different combinations. Today’s fiber artists use the same general principles as people during primitive times, because the fundamental aspects of handweaving have remained unchanged.

Sheep and wool are an integral part of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. To promote the sheep industry, the Show’s Sheep and Goat Committee stages the annual Wool to Wardrobe Contest. In this contest, entrants of all ages model woolen fashions while parading with halter-led sheep. The garments worn by the contestants must be made of wool or 70 percent wool blends. Scoring is based on attractiveness and style, poise and appearance, and control and presentation of the sheep. This contest demonstrates how, from an animal’s coat to a person’s clothing, fiber becomes fashion. 🐑



*A volunteer demonstrates spinning, which twists fiber into thread.*

# 2005

Producing the world's largest livestock show and rodeo is a yearlong task. Show officials, volunteers and staff have been working hard to bring together yet another great Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ with changes and additions to help make the 2005 Show the best yet!

## MEMBERSHIP DANCE

Be the first to dance in the Dome! The Membership Dance will be Friday, Feb. 18, 2005, and will be held in Reliant Astrodome. All members will receive an invitation for four to this Show kickoff, featuring Gene Watson, with special guest, Cooder Graw. You will not want to miss this!



Gene Watson



Cooder Graw



## HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW™ CHANGES

The junior breeding and junior market shows, as well as the agricultural mechanics and tractor technician contest, will be rescheduled across the entire three-week run of the Houston Livestock Show, instead of being concentrated in the final two weeks. The new schedule also will allow the Show to bring the sifts for the junior market turkey, junior market broilers and junior market lambs back to Reliant Park. Open cattle and other commercial shows have been rescheduled from previous years, as well. The Cattle Dog and Sheep Dog Trials have been discontinued.

## AUCTION SCHEDULE

Junior auctions have been rescheduled throughout the Show. Following are the dates for all Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo auctions:

- Junior Market Poultry Auction – Saturday, March 5, noon
- Wine Auction – Saturday, March 5, 8 p.m.
- Junior Commercial Steer Sale – Tuesday, March 8, 5 p.m.
- Junior Market Steer Auction – Saturday, March 12, noon
- Junior Market Swine Auction – Sunday, March 13, noon
- Junior Market Lamb and Goat Auction – Saturday, March 19, noon
- School Art Auction – Sunday, March 20, noon

## THE MAIN CORRAL CLUB

The party never ends! The Main Corral Club will feature live music on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights during the Show after the Rodeo performances. Main Club hours are Sunday – Thursday, noon to midnight, and Friday – Saturday, noon to 1 a.m. Visit the Web site for times and dates of performers.

**Kenefick**  
**The Honky Tonk Heroes**  
**Troy McManus**



The Honky Tonk Heroes

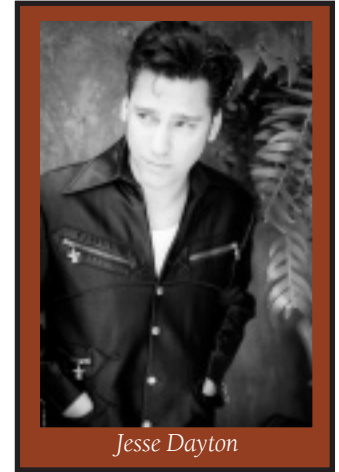
# SHOW UPDATE



*Dance in the Dome during the Membership Dance and at The Hideout*

## THE HIDEOUT

You asked for it; now it's back! The Hideout is returning to the 2005 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and will be held on the floor of Reliant Astrodome. The Hideout will feature Texas country dance bands, as well other popular musicians. Dancing and socializing will take place on the floor of the Dome, a place remembered and loved by many. The Hideout will be open daily, March 1 – 12 and 14 – 20, 6 p.m. to midnight, and Sunday, March 13, noon to 11 p.m. Visit the Web site for dates and times of performers. DJ music will be provided by Red Ritch.



*Jesse Dayton*

**Aaron Watson**

**Bleu Edmondson Band**

**Kazzi Shae**

**Sheila Marshall Band**

**Texas Unlimited Band**

**Tommy Alverson**

## COCA-COLA TEXAS STAGE

New for the 2005 Show schedule is the Coca-Cola Texas Stage, which will showcase local musicians, future stars and good times in the food court area. Seating will be provided, giving visitors a chance to grab a bite to eat, rest and listen to some great music. Times and dates for Coca-Cola Texas Stage performers will be available soon. Visit the Web site for dates and times of performers.

**The Honky Tonk Heroes**

**Kenefick**

**SIXGUN**

**Troy McManus**



*3 Ring Rodeo*



*The Kyle Hutton Band*



*Angela Peterson*



*Del Castillo*



*Miss Leslie and Her Juke-Jointers*

## SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

New for the 2005 Show! If you are a season ticket holder and 21 years or older, enjoy the hospitality at The Cuervo Cantina. The Cuervo Cantina is located at the south end of public concourse one in Reliant Stadium, and will be open daily, one hour before until one hour after the Rodeo.

Keep your eye out for the Spring 2005 issue of the "H Magazine," where 2005 RODEOHOUSTON™ stars will be highlighted. The daily schedule, maps and all you need to know about the 2005 Show will be included in that issue. Stay tuned . . .

# Everyone Loves a Parade

By Susan K. Williams

It has been said that everyone loves a parade, and there are parades for almost every occasion. In fact, according to the city of Houston's records, in 2004 there are 63 parades scheduled. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™'s annual Downtown Rodeo Parade, which kicks off the Show, is truly unique.

Planning for the first Downtown Rodeo Parade in 1938, J. Howard West, then the Show's entertainment chairman, proposed a parade with "the pomp and ceremony of a Roman holiday," according to Lynne Chesnar's historical record of the Show's first 60 years, "February Fever." During the Sam Houston Coliseum years, the small parade of a mounted police escort and color guard and a couple of high school bands ended in the Coliseum. Once the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo moved to the Astrodome, the parade was held on a Friday in February — designated "Go Texan Day." Until the early 1980s, the trail rides headed into downtown for the parade, tying up traffic on freeways and downtown streets. Show officials decided to have the 1981 parade on Saturday, and now participants in 14 trail rides originating throughout Texas travel toward downtown Houston, to join other riders, floats, wagons, marching bands and more to take part in the Downtown Rodeo Parade.

What spectators see on that late February morning represents the culmination of efforts and activities that begin shortly after the previous year's parade.

The parade's theme is chosen in June of each year, and committee members begin distributing participant and donor information packages. Participating area high school bands receive a \$500 stipend for their participation, and each band member receives a special patch for his or her letter jacket. In the past, the bands from Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin alternated years performing as the lead band. Starting in 2005, the University of



*Young spectators enjoyed the crisp, early morning in February — a perfect day for a parade.*

Houston's band will join the rotation.

The Parade Committee leadership selects the parade's grand marshal. The first grand marshal of the Downtown Rodeo Parade was W. Albert Lee — a Show official and radio and hotel executive. More recent grand marshals have included then-governor of Texas George W. Bush, Houston Astros baseball team owner, Drayton McLane, and Houston Texans football team owner, Bob McNair. VIPs, such as the mayor, city council members, senators, legislators, members of congress, sports figures and even past presidents, also are



*Even the Show's mascot, Howdy, gets his own float! The variety of floats is a favorite among spectators.*

giant balloons, more than 50 wagons, 15 marching bands, clowns and horseback-mounted riding groups present a formidable task. On parade day, approximately 600 volunteers arrive to handle their assigned tasks. Marshals wear yellow vests, while announcers arrive decked out in their finest Western wear. The form-up team busily prepares the parade entries, typically totaling more than 100, in their proper order. Officers from various local law enforcement agencies help move traffic and guard the floats and other equipment

throughout the night before the parade.

Prior to the parade, approximately 5,000 runners and walkers participate in the ConocoPhillips Rodeo Run — one of the largest fun runs in the nation. Since 1988, the Rodeo Run has raised more than \$1.2 million for the Show's educational fund. In 2004, a 5K run was offered in addition to the traditional 10K run.

By the start of the parade, which is led by the Marine Color Guard carrying the U.S. and Texas flags, thousands of spectators line the 27 downtown city blocks of the parade route, eager to catch a glimpse of the Old West. For more than two hours, these spectators witness a unique event and a celebration of a time when cattle and cowboys ruled the ranges and prairies, horses were the preferred mode of transportation, and covered wagons were home to pioneers and settlers.

With all of the planning, traveling and organizing that go into the Downtown Rodeo Parade each year, the volunteers, trail riders, band members and spectators surely are hoping it won't rain on their parade. 🇺🇸

invited to participate.

Members of the Parade Committee coordinate with members of several other Show committees, such as the Speakers Committee, members of which serve as announcers on all major street corners along the parade route; Breeders Greeters and Gate Keepers committees, whose members carry giant balloons; and Livestock Committee members, who carry banners in front of award-winning floats.

Another unique feature of the Downtown Rodeo Parade is the distribution of 10,000 U.S. flags to participants and spectators along the parade route. It is one of the largest free flag distributions in the nation.

In November, the city of Houston maps out the parade route for the upcoming Show's parade, and the Parade Committee chairman begins a weekly routine of driving the route to check for new or ongoing road construction, building renovation or construction, potholes, wires, and anything else that might be a hazard for the parade.

In December, work begins on the 18 to 22 parade floats, which are purchased by donors. Each float is custom designed, incorporating a donor's products or services into the parade's theme.

Participating floats and trail rides are judged and trophies are given in a number of categories. In 2004, the parade floats were eligible for the following: sweepstakes; theme; originality; most beautiful; chairman's; and president's awards. The 2004 awards given to trail rides were: top trail ride, best appearing group and best show wagon.

Weather often is a factor in the parade's success, with mild temperatures under clear, blue skies some years, and freezing temperatures and rain in others. In fact, the second parade — in 1939 — was cancelled due to inclement weather and rescheduled. Today, thousands of fans can watch local television coverage from the comfort of home.

Logistically speaking, staging and forming up more than 6,000 horses, 18 or more floats, three



*More than 6,000 horses carry people and carriages down the parade route each year.*

# Fashion Faux Paws

By Stephanie Earthman Baird



The judge talks with an exhibitor about his entry.

There is no doubt that fashion plays a large role at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™. Cowboys, cowgirls and visitors dress up in traditional Western wear, donning colorful boots, lavish jewelry and big belt buckles. However, they are not the only ones decked out at the Show. Believe it or not, rabbits, cavies (guinea pigs), llamas and alpacas are in on the fashion scene, too.

For more than 10 years, Show contestants have been dressing up their animals. From rodeo clowns to sheriffs, exhibitors' imaginations run wild and woolly. To stand out, a costume must be original and interesting — or sometimes just plain funny. And, what a challenge it is when the participants have four legs!

The 2004 costume contests proved to be both colorful and entertaining. It was Jordan Polster's first time to enter the rabbit/cavy costume contest. She dressed up her white-furred Flemish Giant rabbit, Sugar, as a cheerleader, complete with blue and white pompoms. After winning three rabbit competitions over two days, she was excited to be past the formal competitions and ready to have some fun. In fact, her family joined the fun by dressing two other Flemish Giants. Jordan's younger sister, Cheyenne, entered Spice, crowned as a ballerina with matching purple tutu, and her mother showed Cinnamon, who sported a bright-orange Halloween pumpkin outfit.

"It gives people an opportunity to be creative," said Andrea Petty Sharayha, Rabbit Committee chairman. "This part of the Open Rabbit/Cavy Show is for youth and adults alike. It's just pure enjoyment."

Angie Seideo waited until the last minute to dress her rabbit, Squishy, in a tutu and matching adornments. "Everyone waits as long as they can for fear their rabbit will wiggle right out of the costume," explained Seideo.

Less than five minutes before the judging started, 11 contestants entered the West Arena in Reliant Center. There was only one cavy entry, making that choice for the judge an easy one. Dubbed "Jordan, the American Sow Girl," the cavy brought its owners, Adrienne and Nathan Chaffin, the winning trophy. Make no mistake — flamboyantly outfitted in a frilly skirt with matching hat, Jordan was a real looker.

Ten rabbit entries presented the judge with a more difficult decision. From a sleepy bear wrapped in a blue blanket to a uniformed police officer, the costume entries were eye-catching. The judge strolled up and down the arena in front of the contestants, carefully considering costume originality and attention to detail, along with the animals' tolerance for the outfits.

The entry of a second-time contestant, 6-year-old Alison Strom, won the rabbit costume trophy. She held a Holland Lop firmly snuggled in one of her brother's boots, which were part of a sheriff's uniform complete with badge and hat. Titled "Bat Masterson — Sheriff of Dodge City," Little Boy hung over the side of the boot, peeking around in a content, yet curious, manner. Asked how she conceived the idea of a sheriff's uniform framed by a cowboy boot, Allison grinned and said it was a family project. "My grandmother helped me with the idea, and I just practiced a couple of times to get Little Boy used to sitting in the boot."

Several youngsters accepted the challenge of costuming something considerably larger than a rabbit or cavy — a 250-plus-pound llama or alpaca. With a bit more formality to the judging than the rabbit/cavy contest, the purpose remained pure fun.

Livestock judges traditionally analyze animals and measure them against a standard that is commonly accepted as the ideal, and that is how the judges typically evaluate llamas and alpacas at the Show. But, judges have just as much fun as the contestants do when it comes to the Llama and Alpaca Youth Performance Show's costume contest.

With an open scorecard and essentially no rules, the judges loosened up. For llamas and alpacas, the key to winning a trophy was the degree of difficulty of the costume. Difficulty was based on the degree to which the animal was covered and whether its movement was encumbered by the costume. "The more effect the costume has on the animal's ability to move gracefully through the arena, the more difficult the costume is viewed," commented Tim Lavan, a contest judge. Lavan added that the animal's tolerance of the costume adds to the decision.



Little bunny tutu — Angie with her rabbit, Squishy.



Bear rabbit — creativity is the key to this competition.

“The elaborate costumes will surprise you,” said Llama Committee Chairman Janis Morton, noting that it is common for the handlers and the animals to dress in coordinating costumes. Thirteen-year-old Ashley Campbell sought a trophy in her first costume contest after winning two first-place trophies for showmanship and public relations. In order to do so, she clothed Tommy Boy as a clown and transformed herself into a ringmaster escort for the orange-wigged llama.

Toledo Hues pranced around the arena with her llama, Mochi. With the help of her father’s engineering, the two “fairies” sported sparkling wings made from golden, sheer fabric. Mochi took it all in stride.

Costume contest veteran Paula Harman entered the contest for the fifth time. “I saw people dressing up their llamas ... and it looked like fun,” said Harman when explaining how she began competing. “It’s not something you see every day.” With past winning combinations (farmer and chicken, ice cream sundae and spoon, Rocky and Bullwinkle), she turned devilish for 2004. Harman stepped into an angel costume and dressed Wilde B’Mer as a devil.

Dressing up a 4-foot, 250-pound llama or alpaca is no easy task, nor is it an inexpensive one. Given the additional training time required to familiarize each animal with its costume, it is understandable why only a few contestants participated in the 2004 llama/alpaca costume contest. However, contestants stand a fair chance of winning with a llama or alpaca entry, as up to five entries win a prize.

Harman’s friend, Rachel Tyler, frequently dresses her llama in a hat and pantyhose to prepare for costume contests. “It is fun to dress the llamas and strut them around. I just don’t like having to dress up with them,” said Tyler.

The thrills were evident from the “oohs” and “aahs” of the spectators at the contests. “My favorite part is the audience’s reaction and everyone wanting a picture with us,” said Harman, grand champion exhibitor at the 2004 Show.

Show visitors fretting about what to wear to the Show should take heart. They are not the only ones making agonizing fashion decisions when it comes to dressing for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. 🐪



There’s a new sheriff in town! Allison and her rabbit, Little Boy.



# The Nitty-Gritty of Rodeo

By Beverly Acock

**E**ach year starting in February, Reliant Stadium is transformed from a football field into a rodeo arena. Physically, this process might appear to involve simply removing the grass playing field and replacing it with a dirt floor to produce the arena in which the rodeo athletes compete. However, RODEOHOUSTON™, a division of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, is much more than a simple rodeo competition — it represents the culmination of advances in technology in the fields of animal science, mechanical operations and computers, together with the well-developed talents of the rodeo competitors and producers.

The majority of the work takes place well before the first spectator passes through the turnstile. Every event and occurrence requires years of planning and effort by various individuals involved in putting together professional rodeos. Ranging from stock contractors, arena workers, rodeo production officials and judges to the competitors themselves, these individuals combine their efforts to arrange the rodeo events, design and assemble the arena and equipment, train the stock, and coordinate the activities to ensure a seamless, safe performance. As a result of these careful preparations, it almost seems like a simple flip of a switch sends all of the competitors and livestock into nonstop, rough-and-tumble, synchronized action each day during the Show.

Much of the preparation for RODEOHOUSTON involves arranging the use of equipment specific to each rodeo event. Chutes for bucking and timed events; barrels for rodeo clowns,

chuck wagon races and barrel racers; and vests, gloves, ropes, chaps, and straps all play more than a decorative role in the rodeo regalia, which dates back to the 1800s, when working cowboys sought excitement through competition after a busy day of riding the range. The list of mechanical and safety equipment is almost endless.

The arena in Reliant Stadium, including the 12 bucking chutes, was designed specifically for RODEOHOUSTON. Although some rodeo stock is able to start from either side, most animals have a stronger starting side that causes their heads to turn toward the gate opening. For this reason, the chutes were designed with the capability to accommodate left-hand and right-hand deliveries. Before every performance, the fences and gates in the chutes are checked for tight bolts and safe operation. At the same time, the dirt in the chutes is raked until smooth. In addition, the entire arena, which is comprised of an 8-inch clay base and 6-inch dirt floor, must be groomed and leveled each day during the Show in order to ensure a smooth, safe surface for the competitors. It also is watered to help with dust control.

Bull riding — considered by many to be the most dangerous eight seconds in professional sports — demands the roughest stock and the toughest cowboys. Obviously, safety equipment is imperative for the cowboy. Most bull riders wear vests that incorporate high-density foam and sophisticated ballistic materials for added protection. Some cowboys elect to toss the Western hat in favor of a sturdier, protective helmet,



usually worn with a face mask. Bronc and bull riding also require special gloves and padding. Ropes, chaps and spurs are more utilitarian than decorative, incorporating specific designs for particular rodeo events. Gloves often are taped to the wrist to prevent slippage. Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rules require competitors to wear long-sleeved shirts, while arm pads, wraps and other protective gear are selected individually to provide appropriate protection.

Barriers are of key importance in many events. Electronic sensors with laser beams are used for timing many events, as well as identifying false or advance starts by the animals and riders. Part of the standard warm-up drill for the events involves testing the receiving beam and the laser attached to

imals, like Olympic athletes, start their conditioning at a very early age to prepare them for competitive events. Muscle tone, exercise, rest and diet play vital roles in the length and success of their careers.

Professional cowboys, whether they are clowns, riders, flank men or crewmen, strive to know the personalities and behavioral characteristics of rodeo animals, ensuring the best and safest rides possible. According to Tom Stapp, RODEOHOUSTON's stadium floor director, "A true American cowboy is both a sportsman and a friend, always looking out for his fellow athlete and ready to help him acquire maximum points, while having the ride of a lifetime."

Many aspects of preparation for rodeo events take place



*A bull rider makes sure his glove fits snugly before his ride.*



*Zach Dishman, bareback rider from Beaumont, Texas, with a neck support.*



*Instead of being bullet proof, these vests help protect cowboys from horns and hooves.*



*A bull rider takes a moment to sign autographs for fans.*

the timer, as well as confirming the accuracy of the clock, which is capable of measuring times in fractions of a second. Some events use physical barriers. Team roping, tie-down roping and steer wrestling require the use of a barrier rope at the front of the chute to mark the calf or steer's entry into the arena. The spring-loaded rope barrier is looped through a pulley and attached to a nail on the gate. After each release during events, performance judges check the function of the barrier to ensure proper operation.

Spectators continually are impressed with the grace, style and beauty exhibited in barrel racing, which requires precision on the part of the competitor as well as the equipment. Barrel racer turned rodeo commentator Sharon Camarillo has educated fans by explaining "rating" as the process of slowing the horse enough before reaching the barrel to correctly make the turn, and pre-performance marks are pinpointed prior to opening day for barrels and timers. Consistent barrel patterns with exact distances and locations are essential to maintain competitive fairness, and their precise placement is accomplished using advanced laser-alignment equipment.

Preparation for rodeo events also includes training the animals to compete. In bull riding, for example, 50 percent of the score is based on how well the animal performs, and bulls receive years of training by livestock contractors. Young ani-

mals, like Olympic athletes, start their conditioning at a very early age to prepare them for competitive events. Muscle tone, exercise, rest and diet play vital roles in the length and success of their careers.

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Many aspects of preparation for rodeo events take place

behind the scenes while the rodeo action is unfolding. The well orchestrated performances are made possible, in part, by state-of-the-art technology that permits Stapp to communicate with Show producers about event timing, last-minute changes, upcoming riders and chute selection for each animal and contestant. Physical labor also plays a major role. During the Show, groups of cowboys not competing work down in the dirt and out of the spotlight, getting the animals and riders ready to ride and ensuring their safety during each event. They help move animals between pens, load the chutes, and open and close the gates, and they staff the narrow enclosures — known as stripping chutes — that are used to hold each animal in place while removing bareback riggings, saddle bronc saddles, flank straps, bull ropes and other professional gear after a ride is completed.

RODEOHOUSTON anticipates another record-breaking attendance in 2005. Spectators might view the events with a deeper appreciation for this mega production knowing that the vision began many years ago as youthful cowboys and cowgirls commenced their training. Their well-honed skills, along with efforts of countless rodeo production professionals and remarkable technological advances in the fields of animal science, mechanical operations, safety equipment and computers, have made possible the spectacular event known around the world as the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. 🤠

# Scholarship Student Profiles

by Paul Pausky Jr.

**Jennifer Barrera**  
2004 Opportunity Scholarship



Jennifer Barrera said obtaining a degree is an essential part of achieving her personal and academic goals, and her 2004 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Opportunity Scholarship is helping her do just that. She is a hard-working student who strives to be the best that she can be in everything that she does.

This young Houstonian is one of seven children. Barrera is a freshman at the University of St. Thomas, where she is double majoring in education and social work. She would like to teach high school English or speech.

Barrera also has a passion for helping abused children, and has spent time volunteering at a children's home. She said making a difference in someone's life is what is important, and that is exactly what she wants to do.

**Shadey Hester**  
2004 School Art Scholarship



Shadey Hester, a 2004 Area Go Texan scholarship recipient, is currently attending Texas A&M University, where he is pursuing a degree in agricultural engineering. He said his interests and talents in agricultural engineering come from his father and grandfather.

Hester was born and raised in Nacogdoches, Texas, where he remained an active member in 4-H and FFA, all while maintaining an A average in high school. In addition to showing cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, Hester also exhibited agricultural mechanics projects and held several leadership roles.


After graduating from Texas A&M University, Hester would like to own an agricultural business that designs and builds farm and ranch equipment.

**Lauren Sciortino**  
2004 Opportunity Scholarship

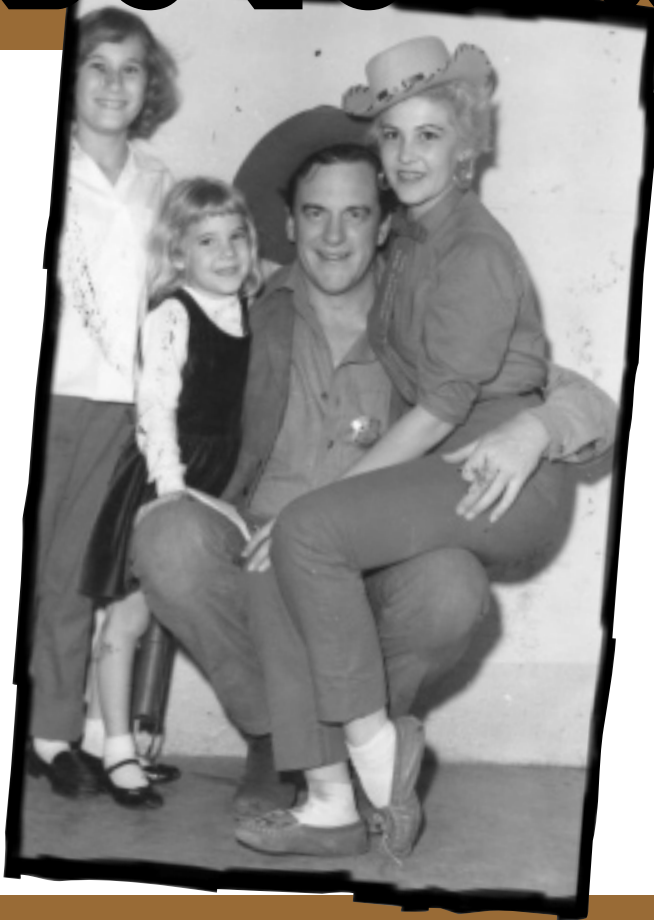


Lauren Sciortino is making the most of her Opportunity Scholarship that she received in 2004. Building on an interest in accounting that she recognized while a student at Dobie High School, she enrolled in the accounting program at the University of Houston. Her dream is to serve as a certified public accountant with a major accounting firm.

A quick study, Sciortino said she learned the value of creating one-to-one interaction with faculty members afforded by classes smaller than she had anticipated. She realized that one key to excelling in a university environment is to identify the teaching and grading styles of each of her professors. "They don't tell you much, so you have to research others' papers to identify their styles," said Sciortino. Eager to engage in the broader experiences of college life, there is no doubt she will make the most of the opportunities.

Watch for Show scholarship recipients to be profiled in each issue of  Magazine.

# DO YOU REMEMBER?



In 1959, “Gunsmoke” was one of television’s most popular Western shows, and the 27th annual Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo in the Sam Houston Coliseum featured James Arness, also known as Marshal Matt Dillon, as one of the stars.

“Gunsmoke,” which premiered in 1955, is the longest running dramatic series in the history of television, and Arness remained for all 20 seasons, until the show’s end in 1975.

Arness, as seen with fans at the 1959 Houston Fat Stock Show, is recognized as one of America’s most beloved actors. He and his wife, Janet, currently live in Los Angeles. “Gunsmoke” can still be viewed in syndication.

*If you have photos or memorabilia that you would like to donate to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ archives, please call the Show at 832.667.1000, and ask for the Western Art Committee staff coordinator.*

## GALLOP TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR

While you are considering your 2004 income tax filings, this might also be a good time to consider long-term tax savings. The federal estate tax still can take approximately 50 percent of one’s estate at the time of death. That is a higher tax bite than the income tax! It definitely pays to do some advance planning with your attorney and other professional advisors.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ hopes you will consider a charitable bequest in your will — to benefit the Show while you save estate tax dollars at the same time.

For more information on planned giving, visit the Web site at <[www.hlsr.com/info/plannedgiving.aspx](http://www.hlsr.com/info/plannedgiving.aspx)>. If you would like to speak with someone in person, information is available from all GALLOP Committee members. Committee Chairman Beth Woehler can be reached at 713.561.9331.

*This is not legal advice; any prospective donor should seek the advice of qualified legal, estate and tax professionals to determine the consequences of gifting.*



# Houston Metro Go Texan Committee

By Brandy Divin

The Houston Metro Go Texan Committee was established in 1977 to promote the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in Harris County school districts separate from the Houston Independent School District and those districts in the seven counties surrounding Houston. The original Go Texan Committee, from which this and most of the now separate Go Texan committees originated, began in 1955.

The 927 volunteers are divided into 26 subcommittees, which form one of the largest committees under a single chairmanship. The subcommittees are: Aldine/Spring/Klein, Alief/Southwest, Alvin/Pearland, Baytown/Highlands, Brazoria/Southwest, Chambers County, Channelview/Sheldon, Conroe/Willis/The Woodlands, Crosby/Hoffman, Cypress Fairbanks, Deer Park, Fort Bend/Stafford, Galveston Mainland, Humble/Kingwood, Jacinto City/Galena Park, Katy, Lamar/Needville, La Porte, Liberty County, NASA/Clear Creek/Friendswood, New Caney/Splendor, Pasadena, Special Projects, Spring Branch/Memorial, Tomball/Magnolia/Montgomery and Waller County. Each year, the subcommittees collectively plan more than 120 functions, many of which are fund-raising events. They include bowling tournaments, potluck dinners, dances, steak dinners and barbecue cook-offs.

Current chairman Melba Eveler, who is the first female chairman of the committee, is proud of how the committee has grown over the years. "I think our events have gotten more unique, and we have become more focused on our scholarships." For the 2004 Show, the committee raised more than \$700,000. Trying to beat its own records, the committee continually strives to hold new and exciting events each year by adding new ones.

Officer in charge and Show Vice President Howard Cordell holds special memories of the Houston Metro Go Texan Committee as a committee volunteer. Since 1991, having advanced through its leadership and serving as its immediate past chairman, not much of what the committee does surprises him. One of the most significant challenges the committee has taken on and met, according to Cordell, is the change in its mission. He said, "In the past 10 years, Metro has evolved from a strictly promotional committee, which didn't raise any revenue, to a very valuable revenue stream for the Show." Cordell said the committee's successes are due to "the hard work and year-round dedication of all Metro's members ... [together with] the organization and management who put all 26 subcommittees into one cohesive unit."

Marking its ninth anniversary, the committee's annual Houston Metro Go Texan Regional Cook-off took place in September 2004. Approximately 75 Houston-area teams took part in the weekend-long event, with the winning team guaranteed a spot in the Show's World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest. Typically, participation at the contest is gained by competing and winning many cook-offs throughout the year to earn points, where only the three highest point leaders are awarded spots.

In 2003, the Houston Metro Go Texan Committee Jacinto City/Galena Park subcommittee added something to its cook-off weekend — a rodeo for special kids. "The experience helps special children to learn about RODEOHOUSTON™ and allows them to participate in rodeo events tailor-made for them, such as stick horse races," Eveler said.

These are just a sample of the estimated 120-plus events hosted by one of the Show's most active committees. The Houston Metro Go Texan Committee is doing its part to make the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo better every year, by following the Show's motto — benefiting youth and supporting education. 🤠

photos courtesy of Margaret Kunz - Houston Metro Go Texan Committee Special Projects subcommittee member



# Wine Competition and Auction Committee

By Bridget Hennessey

Fine wine might not come to mind when someone mentions a rodeo. However, the Wine Competition and Auction Committee is perfectly suited to carry out the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™'s fundamental mission — to benefit youth and support education in Texas. After six years in the making, the committee came barreling out of the chute in 2004 with a highly successful inaugural year, and the committee is sure to continue expanding the Show's horizons for years to come.

Comprised of 200 dedicated volunteers with a wide variety of interests and talents, the committee strives to enhance the Show's reputation as an international event, while at the same time generating revenue for the Show. Its activities include hosting an international wine competition, a wine tasting event and a wine auction, in addition to selling special cases of award-winning wine.

Committee Chairman Jim Janke credits the success of the committee's inaugural year to a combination of hard work and a little luck. "We took wine industry people, stock show people and other interested parties, threw them in a big barrel and let them ferment for a few months. We felt like we were shooting from the hip much of the time, but it all came together beyond everyone's expectations," Janke said. "We produced a series of events that raised money for the Show, a charity that benefits youth around the state of Texas, and next year, we intend to improve on everything we accomplished in 2004," he added.

The committee begins the Show year by preparing for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Wine Competition. Using their contacts in the wine industry, committee members solicit wineries to participate. In 2004, the competition drew almost 850 entries, 30 percent of which came from outside the United States. After the judging, in which 50 area wine experts taste and rate the entries, the committee selects a Grand Champion and a Reserve Grand Champion Best of Show in addition to the Best Texas Wine, Best Value Wine and Best All-Around Winery and determines other award recipients. Engraved Show belt buckles are presented for champion and reserve champion wines, and the five top winners receive custom Show trophy saddles that can be displayed at the wineries.

To add to the uniqueness of the event, 12 winemakers are invited to make a small lot — two barrels — of wine, focusing on quality. The wines are sold as the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Wine Competition Double-Barrel Sampler, a mixed case containing one bottle from each of the 12 selected wineries. These exclusive wines are available only through the Show.

The winning wines are announced at the committee's RodeoUncorked! food and wine tasting celebration, which takes place in late February, just before the Show commences. The event offers the public an opportunity to taste the winning wines while enjoying entries in the Best Bites Competition, where top regional chefs and culinary schools serve mouthwatering samples of their premier dishes.

In March, during the Show, the committee hosts its wine auction and gala, where the top wines are auctioned to the public. During the 2004 Show, the Grand Champion Best of Show Wine sold for \$45,000, and the auction brought in \$313,700.

"This is such an exciting new committee for the Rodeo," commented Tilman Fertitta, a Show vice president and officer in charge of the committee. "When you think of all the new committees, I don't think there's ever been one to have such an impact in such a short time that becomes so important to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, in terms of both raising money and bringing in a whole new group of people," Fertitta added.

Through the efforts of its volunteers, the Wine Competition and Auction Committee not only has expanded the impact of the Show's mission, but also has attracted participants who might otherwise have been missing out on the Show's tremendous appeal. That certainly deserves a toast! 🍷



# Third-Year Committee Chairmen

## PROFILES

By Marshall Smith III

### **Robert Clay – Horse Show - Appaloosa**



Robert Clay joined the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in 1991 as a life member. In his seven years as a member of the Appaloosa Committee, Robert has served as a captain, vice chairman and, ultimately chairman. He has been a volunteer on the Swine Auction and Horse Show Awards committees. His wife, Emily, serves on the School Art Committee. They have two children, Catherine and Will. Robert is the owner of Clay Development & Construction, Inc. He likes to hunt and work on his ranch and also is learning to fly airplanes.

### **Gary DeBakey – Judging Contest**



In 1987, Gary DeBakey joined the Show as a life member. In 1995, he joined the Parade Committee, where he has served as a captain, and he remains an active member. Gary joined the Judging Contest Committee in 2000 and has served as a captain and a vice chairman. He is married to JoAnn, and they have three children. Their son, Dustin, is a life member and serves on the Judging Contest Committee. Daughters Cassandra and Christina are becoming life members this year. Gary is an obstetrician/gynecologist with 18 years of practice in the Tomball and Spring, Texas, areas. His hobbies are hunting, fishing, raising registered Red Brahman and Black Brangus cattle, and learning to ride cutting horses.

### **Rodney E. Doutel – Membership**



Rodney E. Doutel not only became a life member of the Show in 1992, he also became a volunteer on the Membership Committee, on which he served as a captain and vice chairman before becoming chairman. Rodney also is a member of the International Committee. He is an account executive for Sebring Capital Partners, a wholesale mortgage banking firm. Rodney has a second job that brings him many cheers and boos as a referee for high school football games. His hobbies are golfing and hunting.

### **Michael “Mike” Hill – Gate Keepers**



In 1996, Michael “Mike” Hill joined the Show and began volunteering with the Breeders Greeters Committee. He was asked in 2003 to be chairman of the newly formed Gate Keepers Committee. Mike has served in several positions on the Breeders Greeters Committee. His wife, Marji, is on the Parade Committee, and his twin children, John and Ashley, are volunteers on the Gate Keepers Committee, as well. In 2004, Mike was elected to the Show's board of directors. He is managing partner of Michael Hill Properties. Mike also is a triathlete and has competed in the Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii. He enjoys playing the keyboard with a recording group.

### **Clayton Lau – Souvenir Program**



Clayton Lau became a member of the Show in 1990 and joined the Souvenir Program Committee in 1994, serving in various leadership roles before becoming chairman of that committee. Clayton also was a volunteer on the Group Ticket Sales Committee. He and his wife, Georgia, have been married for 36 years, and they have three children, Luke, Melissa Lau McKinnie and Gretchen Lau Vogel. They also have two grandchildren. Clayton is president of Houston Dynamic Service, Inc. His hobbies are playing golf, woodworking, photography and collecting model trains.

### **Diana L. Urban – Horse Show - Paint**



In 1980, Diana L. Urban joined the Show and the Paint Horse Committee. Before she became chairman, Diana was a vice chairman for six years. Her husband, Dennis, is a member of the committee as well. They have two sons, Colt and Cutter, and one granddaughter, Haley. Cutter is serving in the Navy. Diana is employed with Solar Turbines Inc., a division of Caterpillar, in Houston as a senior field administrator.

### **Mary Ellen Verbois – Ladies' Season Box**



Mary Ellen Verbois became a life member in 1978, the same year she joined the Ladies' Season Box Committee. She also has served on the Ladies' Go Texan Committee and is a member of the International Committee. Her son, James, volunteers on Breeders Greeters Committee, and her daughter, Michelle, is a member of the Grand Entry, Ladies' Season Box and Breeders Greeters committees. Mary Ellen owns M E Designs. She is a member of the Official Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Wagon #4, Amigas Para Niños, Houston Delta Gamma Foundation and the Women's Fund. Mary Ellen loves spending her spare time with her children and friends.

### **Jim Winne – Calf Scramble Donors**



Jim Winne joined the Show and became a life member in 1980. He was a vice chairman for several years on the Calf Scramble Donors Committee, and years later, he became chairman. Jim also volunteers on the Steer Auction Committee, and, in 2001, he was named rookie of the year. He is a member of the Show's board of directors. Jim has a 13-year-old daughter, McKenzie. He is chairman of the board and CEO of Legend Natural Gas. In his spare time, he likes to ride horses at his ranch in Fulshear, Texas.



### ★ Show to Be Honored – Limited Tickets Available

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ officials are proud to announce that the Show will receive the Charles Goodnight Award Dec. 6, 2004, in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Charles Goodnight Scholarship Committee, a group of Fort Worth civic leaders, chooses individuals or organizations in recognition of their contributions to maintaining the lifestyle and traditions of Texas and the Western way of life.

Former winners of the award include Texas governors, civic and business leaders, and organizations such as the King Ranch and Waggoner Ranch.

For those interested in attending The Charles Goodnight Gala honoring the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, individual tickets are \$300, \$500 and \$1,000, and tables of 10 are \$3,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000. Musical entertainment will be provided by country music superstar Travis Tritt. The \$500 and \$1,000 individual tickets, and the \$5,000 and \$10,000 tables, also include a private reception and a photo opportunity with Tritt.

The gala will be held at the Renaissance-Worthington Hotel, Fort Worth, 6:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 6. For reservations, please contact Kathy Shaughnessy at 817.465.2089 (phone), 817.465.2646 (fax) or gala@charlesgoodnightgala.com. Seating is limited.

Proceeds benefit the TCU Ranch Management Program, the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and the Cattle Raisers Museum.

### ★ Texas Tech University Extends Gratitude

Texas Tech University officials held a scholarship luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2004, to express their gratitude toward the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for its educational support of Texas Tech University students. Show Chairman John O. Smith and Show President P. Michael Wells, Show vice presidents, and administrative staff members met with 50 Show scholarship recipients from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, as well as Texas Tech University officials and staff. The day included remarks from past Show scholarship recipients, as well as a tour of the college's new animal science complex.



### ★ Membership Information

For membership information and purchases, Corral Club membership and drink ticket purchases, and general Show information, the Show's Membership Office currently is open with extended hours: Monday and Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Tuesday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. During Showtime, the Membership Office will be open Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., and on Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### ★ Show Merchandise Ready to Wear

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo official merchandise is ready to wear anywhere, whether it's a casual polo-style or T-shirt, a beautiful Western shirt, or the official 2005 jacket. Plus, there are plush toys for the littlest cowpokes, fun logo jewelry and great gifts. Visit the Show's online store at <[www.rodeohouston.com/store](http://www.rodeohouston.com/store)> to view the selection.

### ★ Badge Buying Opportunity

A limited number of gold badges from the 1975 – 2004 Show years will be available soon. This is a great opportunity to replace lost badges or to complete your collection. The cost is \$10 per badge, and they can be purchased from the online store at <<http://www.rodeohouston.com/store/>>. Also, during Show-time the badges will be available at the Official Rodeo Merchandise booths.

### ★ Welcome – New and Returning Staff

Jennifer Hazelton – Chief Financial Officer  
 Jeanneth Leighton – End User Support Specialist  
 Billy Poche – Director, Buildings and Grounds  
 Catherine Schultz – Manager, Stadium Presentations  
 Brandi Taylor – Director, Horse Show  
 Carl Wimberley – Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel

### ★ Carruth Plaza Earns Accolades

The Texas Masonry Council bestowed its prestigious Golden Trowel Award on Hermes Architects, designers of Carruth Plaza, a showcase for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's bronze statues, located between Reliant Astrodome and Reliant Stadium. The award was presented at the annual Gold Trowel Awards Banquet in San Antonio on Saturday, Sept. 15. Carruth Plaza was selected as the best in design and detailing in the landscape, hardscape and restoration category over the other regional winners from around the state.

The Allen H. "Buddy" Carruth Plaza is an oasis of bronze, stone and foliage. Funded by a grant from The Wortham Foundation, it was named in memory of the 12th president of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and former chairman and president of the board of trustees of The Wortham Foundation, Inc. The plaza, dedicated in fall 2003, honors Carruth for his business astuteness and lifetime of philanthropic endeavors.

### ★ RODEOHOUSTON™ Receives WPRA Award

The Women's Professional Rodeo Association announced that RODEOHOUSTON has been selected, with two other rodeos, as the WPRA 2004 Most Improved Ground-Indoor Year Award. WPRA Vice President Jymmy Kay Davis nominated RODEOHOUSTON at the organization's fall board meeting.

The award will be presented at the WPRA Committee Reception in December in conjunction with National Finals Rodeo activities in Las Vegas.

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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## DECEMBER

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## JANUARY

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## FEBRUARY

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27	28					

## NOVEMBER

- 1-15 Fort Bend/Stafford – Gourmet Bake Sale  
 1 Katy – 2004 Golf Tournament – Weston Lakes, Fulshear  
 4 NASA/Clear Creek/Friendswood – Cowboys and Cowgirls Who Cook – Marker 1 Marina, Seabrook  
 6 Houston General Go Texan – Houston Championship Chili Cook Off – Traders' Village, Houston  
 7 Alief/Southwest – Bowl-a-Thon – Emerald Bowl, Houston  
 8 Humble/Kingwood – Golf Tournament – Oakhurst Golf Club, Porter  
 12 Aldine/Spring/Klein – Spaghetti Western – Tumbleweed, Houston  
 12-14 Alvin/Pearland – Softball Tournament – Dad's Club, Pearland  
 13 Jacinto City/Galena Park – Luau Casino Night – Riverside Inn Marina, Channelview  
 13 Jackson County – Texana Chili Spill and Area Go Texan Day – Brackenridge Park, Edna  
 18-19 Baytown/Highlands – Brisket Sale – Baytown Optimist Club, Baytown  
 19 Go Tejano – Fashion Show 2004 and Dance – Park Plaza Hotel, Houston  
 20 Appalosa Horse Show Committee – Trail Ride – Clay Ranch, Industry  
 25-26 Show offices closed – Thanksgiving Holiday  
 27-28 Cypress Fairbanks – Photos with Santa – Traders' Village, Houston

## DECEMBER

- 1-15 Fort Bend/Stafford – Gourmet Bake Sale  
 3-4 Cypress Fairbanks – Photos with Santa – Traders' Village, Houston  
 11-12 Cypress Fairbanks – Photos with Santa – Traders' Village, Houston  
 11-12 Tomball/Magnolia/Montgomery – Brisket Sale – VFW, Tomball  
 18-19 Cypress Fairbanks – Photos with Santa – Traders' Village, Houston  
 23-27 Show offices closed – Christmas Holiday  
 31 Show offices closed – New Year's Eve Holiday

## JANUARY

- 7-8 Baytown/Highlands – Goose Creek Chili When It's Chilly Cook Off – San Jacinto Mall, Baytown  
 14 Jacinto City/Galena Park – Super Star Rodeo – GPISD, Galena Park  
 15 Jacinto City/Galena Park – Beauty Pageant – Cunningham Middle School, Galena Park  
 16 Judging Contest – Casino Stampede Fundraiser – T Town, Houston  
 19 Conroe/Willis/The Woodlands – Go Texan Dance – Dalton's, Conroe  
 20 Steer Auction Steer Starlettes – Kickoff Party – Reliant Center, Houston  
 22 Houston General Go Texan Midtown – Diamonds and Scrubs Gala – Metropolitan Ballroom, Houston  
 29 Alief/Southwest – Super Bowl Brisket Sale – United Recovery Systems, Houston

## FEBRUARY

- 5 Conroe/Willis/The Woodlands – South Country Dance – Papa's, Spring  
 5 Lamar/Needville – Boot Scootin' Ball – Fort Bend County Fair Grounds, Rosenberg  
 5 Go Tejano – Scholarship Dance – Shriner's Ballroom, Houston  
 5 Steer Auction Steer Starlettes – Bowling for Beef – Emerald Bowl, Houston  
 7 Houston General Go Texan Midtown – Rodeo in the Park – Kelsey Sebold Main Campus, Houston  
 12 Alief/Southwest – Dinner and Dance – Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston  
 19 Conroe/Willis/The Woodlands – Go Texan Parade – Downtown, Conroe  
 19 Tomball/Magnolia/Montgomery – Go Texan Kick Off Dance – VFW, Tomball



Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™  
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