

Don Coleman (deceased) (St. Paul Rodeo Officer/Director)



Don was a lifelong resident of St. Paul. He was a SPR Director for 29 years between 1957 & 1985 and was President from 1975-77. Along with wife Maureen (2000 SPR Hall of Fame Inductee), the Colemans spent many years here as Chairpersons of our Queen and Court Committee. They raised a large rodeo family. Six of the ten Coleman children remain directly involved with SPR: son Steve has been our SPR Livestock Director since 1979, daughter Rosemary was Queen of SPR in 1967, son Jerry is a SPR member, son Ken makes the leather chaps for our SPR Royalty. Daughter Patty is a hostess in our hospitality tent during timed event slacks and Father Ed works the chutes.

Don Ferschweiler (Rodeo General Membership)



Don is a St. Paul, Oregon native and forty year St. Paul Rodeo member (since 1972). His parents Leo and Nell were SPR members and Don began with us by helping his dad with rodeo sign-posting. In 1990, he “moved up” from his gateman position to Chairman and has handled the scheduling for every rodeo & PBR performance since then. Don is a loyal chap, and has also worked for the local John Deere dealership for 40-plus years. When asked how he sees St. Paul Rodeo today, Don says “it feels real good to see today’s volunteers are proving that instead of dying out, SPR committees are getting stronger as we go.”

Fred Whitfield (Timed Event Cowboy)



Of Hockley, Tx, Fred is a multiple winner and fan favorite at St. Paul Rodeo. He won the Tie- Down Roping Event here in 1991 & 2001 and captured the World All-Around title in 1999. Fred has won seven World Tie- Down Roping Titles for 91-95-96-99-00- 02-05 in 14 qualifications for the NFR. His family includes wife Cassie and daughters Savannah and Sydney. Fred is a big man in the timed events at 6’2” and 210. His “raise the roof” gesture caught on long ago with fans across the country, and we are hoping to

Sonny Hansen (deceased) (Contract Personnel)



Sonny hailed from Ontario, Oregon. He was a seven-year “world-class” Pick-up Man at St. Paul Rodeo. SPR Stock Contractor John Growney said of him, “Sonny was one of those super nice guys. He was pretty quiet, but he had all the qualities you want - he was soft spoken, never had anything bad to say about anyone, and did a great job raising his two boys.” Peers have noted, Sonny always had the best horses and tack. He died suddenly September 29, 2011 in an arena accident at the TVCC practice arena in Ontario, where he was the college rodeo coach. Sonny is survived by wife Jackie, twin sons Clayton & Chase, and stepsons

Trevor and Jarod. Clayton & Chase carry on the fine rodeo tradition of the Hansen family. The entire St. Paul Rodeo family misses Sonny!

Loren Obrist/Rollin' Acres (Contract Personnel)



Loren, of Gresham, Oregon has been the face of arena horse racing at St. Paul Rodeo. Loren staged races and competed here for forty years from 1960 to 2000. He started his "Rollin' Acres" stable on SE 172nd in what was then Boring, OR. At St. Paul Rodeo, our past races included a Boy's Pony Race, Cowgirl Race, St. Paul Derby, Baton Relay Race, and Pony Express. Our famous "Arborvitae Downs" nickname (by Bob Tallman) originated with trees as a method to mark the track in our oval arena. With his wife, Joy, of 57 years, Loren raised a daughter Robin and sons Ricky & Randy. Randy mostly rode game shows, but Ricky Obrist started young and became a professional jockey for 22 years. Loren is near 80 years old, has a few racehorses, and still operates heavy equipment. He says "I've been a millionaire three different times, and this time is the hardest."