

# LAST CHANCE STAMPEDE QUEENS

1961

TO

1996



# 1961

**Kitty Ann Quigley (Taaler)** - The mainframe of my life has been spent extolling and promoting Frontier Town, the first Frontier Town anywhere! Promoting the great State of Montana and working for and promoting the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth, THE CALGARY EXHIBITION AND STAMPEDE.

2008 –2010 Retired, married 32 years to Aavo Taaler. Three Daughters and two grandchildren.

Hobbies.....birding, oil painting, water color and laughing.

1992-2008 Aavo General Manager for Wheatbelt Public Power, Sidney, Nebraska, Member of Sidney Art Guild.

1988-1991 Aavo General Manager for Metlakatla Power and Light, Metlakatla, Alaska

1981- 1988 Aavo and I leased the Frontier Town Dining and Lounge from Sue Quigley, and ran it successfully for seven years.

1979-1981..Married Aavo Taaler, Telkwa, British Columbia. Baby Taegan born 1981.

1967-1979 Worked for the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Elected Associate Director of Calgary Stampede, Rodeo Committee, and Public Information Committee. City of Calgary Media Liaison officer and hosted a radio show "This Is Your City." Member of the Calgary Altrusa Club and Calgary Press Club.

1966-1967 State of Montana Public Information Department

1965-1966 KCAP Radio, Helena, Montana

1964 – worked New York City World's Fair for State of Montana

- traveled state of Montana promoting Montana Territorial Centennial.

1963-1965 University of Montana, Applied voice major. Student of Dr. John Lester. Won Miss Missoula at the University of Montana. Entered the Montana Territorial Centennial Contest and won the title of Miss Big Sky Country. Won Miss Congeniality at the Montana Miss America Pageant

1950-1963 Lived with my maternal grandmother Mrs. Anna Kirwan and attended Saint Mary's Academy and Powell County High School in Deer Lodge, Montana.

I worked every summer at Frontier Town, my dad wanted to make sure I knew what a "good days work" was!! My first Job was on my belly in the hollowed-out log under the road sign of the barking dog and bear, job....to push the button on the recorder when I heard a car coming by. I was "swamper", window washer, Frontier Town coin seller...you name it ..I did it. I also had to "get up" and sing for any special occasion in the dining room. I would be scared to death, but it did not hurt me a bit!!

1961...First Last Chance Stampede Queen...Fall of 1961 Runner-up for Miss Rodeo Montana. Former Governor Judy Martz was elected Miss Rodeo Montana.

Happy Anniversary to the Last Chance Stampede. "Thanks for the memories."!!!

Happy Trails,  
Kitty Ann



# 1962

**Jeri Huffman Gunderson** – Much living has happened since my time as Stampede Queen in 1962. While attending Montana State University in Bozeman, I met and married Dennis Gunderson. We graduated from MSU, taught school in Monroe, WA returning to Montana to farm north of Chester in 1969. Together we raised six children as well as responding to the call to Christian world mission in the mid-'70s. That call has taken us around the world, first to India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and, for the past 23 years, the Philippines. Sadly, Dennis passed away in Manila in 2007. My work in the Philippines is among the poor. I founded and still direct Shiphrah Birthing Home, a midwife-driven ministry that reaches out to impoverished women and their families, giving excellence in dignified, safe maternal health care. I also serve as president of our mission, HELP International Ministries that includes not only the birthing home but also the little children's home, a home for parentless infants, caring for them until we can place them with forever families either in the Philippines or internationally. Needing to better understand the dynamics of poverty and effective response to it, I entered a Masters Degree program in the Philippines studying Community Development. For the past eight years I've served as Program Director for the Community Development Program at the Alliance Graduate School in Manila, resigning just this spring. I am currently in the midst of work on my doctoral dissertation working toward an EdD in Transformational Adult Education.





# 1963

**Pat Rouane (Ayers)** - I was raised on a dry land farm south of Columbus, Montana. During my growing up years, I rode horseback four miles each way to a country grade-school. I loved riding horses and participated in the roundups, small rodeos and trail rides in the area.

In 1963, I was 'Miss Stylon', representing a downtown Helena women's clothing store and was elected Miss Last Chance Stampede, 1963-64. I went on to represent Montana in the Miss Rodeo America contest held later that November, in Las Vegas. I was next in line into the arena for horsemanship competition when the announcement came over the loud speaker, "The President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, has been shot today in Dallas, Texas."

In July, 1965, I married Arthur W. Ayers, grandson of former Montana Governor, Roy E. Ayers in Arlington, Virginia. I was working for Montana's Congressman, Arnold Olsen, in Washington, DC at that time. In January, 1969, Arthur opened his private law practice in Red Lodge, Montana. We lived and raised our two children, Erika and Jonathan Roy, there for 28 years. After my experience as Miss Last Chance Stampede, I immediately originated the 'Home of Champions' Rodeo Queen Contest for that rodeo and it exists to this day. During our time in Red Lodge, Arthur and I served on many community fundraisers that included the creation of the present public tennis courts, swimming pool and raised money for equipment for the Fire and Ambulance Departments. During my Chair of the Carbon County Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, the Beartooth Hospital Foundation was created, which now is instrumental in building a new hospital and health care center for the Red Lodge/Carbon County area.

For Arthur's medical and health needs, we moved to Medford, Oregon, the fall of 1996, so he could be in a warmer climate due to dialysis for juvenile diabetes he was diagnosed with in 1944.

Unfortunately, Arthur died less than two years later in August, 1998, ending 33 years of a happy marriage. I chose to remain in Medford and am active in St. Mark's Episcopal Church and presently Chair the Outreach Committee. I co-chaired the creation of the first Community Garden in a Historical District of Medford and helped create and volunteer at St. Mark's weekly food pantry where clients can choose their own food. I also serve as a Director on the Interfaith Care Community that provides housing for U.S. Veterans in need. I am the very proud grandma of Ian (13) and Kathleen Grace (almost 10) Schulz that live on a mountainside outside of Clancy, Montana and Samuel (7) and Logan (4) Ayers residing in Happy Valley, Oregon, near Portland.

There are only 4 states in the U.S. that I have not visited; countries that I have enjoyed sight-seeing are: South Korea, Mexico, Ireland, Scotland, Denmark, Finland, Russia, Ecuador, Peru and the Galapagos Islands. I have had a loved and blessed life.



# 1964

**Bonnie Joy Peterson Revious** - Bonnie was born in Helena, Montana February 25, 1947 to Doug and Floy Peterson. Bonnie graduated from Helena High School and later graduated from the College of Great Falls with a Para Legal Degree. At the time of her death she was employed by the law firm of Church, Harris and Johnson in Great Falls, Montana. She was previously married to A. W. Revious and they later divorced. Together they were the parents of four children, Lloyd, Jason, Darby and Douglas. Horsemanship continued as an interest and Darby went on to reign as the 1994 National Saddle Club Association O-Mok-See Queen at Fort Pierre, South Dakota.

Bonnie pursued her horsemanship career through the 4-H Clubs, the Helena Trail Rider's O-Mok-See and Junior Mounted Patrol, directed by Betty Jo and LeRoy Michaelson. Her two favorite horses were "Richy" and "Little Guy". "Little Guy" always thrilled the crowds by rearing up and pawing his front legs during introductions in front of the grandstands. Bonnie was ready and gripped her legs in preparation. "Richy" was her prize winning pole bending horse. His rhythm between the poles was graceful as a beautiful waltz. Each horse was a thrill to her and gave her endless hours of pleasure.

Bonnie's father Doug Peterson, served as the International Rodeo Director for the Rodeo Queens. Doug and Bonnie traveled many miles to rodeo's and queen contest events. Doug and his wife Floy worked with six different Miss Rodeo Montana Queens taking them to the National Finals in Las Vegas.

Bonnie Joy passed away in Great Falls, Montana in 1996, she will be missed.



# 1965



## **Mary Jo Maierle (Smallwood)**

- Beginning with my life from the time I was crowned Miss Last Chance Stampede in July 1965 to reign for the 1966 year and taking you to the present day is a long story, but I will attempt to condense it for you. The title of MLCS gave me the opportunity to compete for the title of Miss Rodeo Montana at Dillon in August, 1965. I won the title over 3 other girls and went on to compete with 40+ girls from as many states in Las Vegas Nevada in November of that year. I was an odds on favorite going into the finals – at least according to the bookies – but walked away with a memorable experience that has stayed with me all these years. The many successes and marvelous friends and colleagues I had as a result of “running for Rodeo Queen” are too numerous to count. But I must especially thank Bonnie Joy Peterson, MLCS and MRM 1965 for all her help and guidance. Her parents and brother, Doug Sr., Floy, and Doug Jr. were my second family and lovingly taught me to ride in 45 days to help me win the title. The family still remains very special to me.

Following my Rodeo experiences I returned to College at Gonzaga in Spokane, ultimately graduating with a B.A. degree in Music, Vocal Performance. I then attended and graduated from Eastern Washington State College, as it was then known, with a B. A. degree in Music Education. 1971 brought me back to Helena where I began a nine-year stint as an Elementary classroom teacher, teaching at Rossiter, Ray Bjork and Hawthorne schools. A couple of years on the Board of the Helena Education Association gave me great background and wonderful friends.

I left the education world to try my hand at corporate America by working for Mountain Bell during the break-up, a very interesting time and eye-opening experience. In only two years with a total of one year spent in training away from home I had learned enough about the corporate world to know that it wasn't the kind of life I wanted. By that time I had married a wonderful man, Jack Smallwood of Helena, Blue Cloud Ranch and Real Estate Broker fame, and had become step-mother to Jack's young son, Jack Jr. I began to dive back into the music world I had left behind and started teaching Voice and Piano through the encouragement of my good friend and mentor, Fay Bunes.

Music festivals at the High School level, recitals and many occasions to judge Vocal competitions took up my slack moments as I guided many, perhaps hundreds of young people through the world of music. I have been a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, a prestigious organization of professional Voice Teachers, for almost 30 years; and have held several different offices as a Board of Director member both in Montana and California.

Another friend encouraged me to put my love of cooking to work for me so I opened my own business, La Domestique, doing catering for private parties, wedding receptions and legislative events. This consumed about 15 years of my life in Helena. I also cooked and became luncheon kitchen manager at the Queen City Café.

Jack and I decided that Montana winters were getting too severe to manage and left Montana for Newport Beach, California in the fall of 1997. We have resided here since. I continued to teach Voice and Piano privately and took a couple of interesting part-time jobs in direct sales to keep myself busy. I continue to sing, a member and soloist at a wonderful Church Choir and participate in Festivals with the Pacific Chorale of Orange County. This July 4th was the 12th year in a row that I have sung the National Anthem at our village. I've kept active as a member of the Board of Directors of our local Bayside Village Homeowners Association, serving as President for 2 years, Vice President for 3 years and the Editor of the community newsletter. In recent years I have returned to another love, art. I have been doing ceramic painting and decorative painting with a registered business known as *California Hearts and Flowers*. It is very fulfilling and relaxing, just what you are supposed to do in retirement!

Our lives are full and happy living in sunny California, we miss Montana and all our friends, but do come home to visit as often as we can. We also miss our son, Jack, Jr., his wonderful wife, Vicki, and our two amazingly beautiful grandchildren, Grant age 6 and Ashlyne age 3. These dear loved ones live way too far away in Connecticut where Jack, Jr. has recently retired from the Navy Submarine Corps after 20 years. He now works as a civilian inspector doing the same job he did while in the Navy. Vicki teaches in a Junior College and takes great care of our two sweeties. Jack and I celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary on July 26th and look forward to many more years together as best friends.



# 1966

**Jane Palmer (Hahn)** - 1966.... What a glorious summer for me! I not only graduated from Helena High, but won Miss Last Chance Stampede! That fall I ran for Miss Rodeo Montana, and did not win, but had a wonderful time! In 1967 and 1969, I worked for the State Legislature, and odd jobs in between. After that, I moved to Spokane, Washington, where I went to work for a small animal veterinarian, and showed Arabian horses. I also fell in love with the father of my wonderful children. We moved back to Montana City and built a home and settled in to raise our children.

In 1982, we had the opportunity to move to West Berlin where I joined a rodeo club and did some rodeoing in Germany and other parts of Europe. From Germany, we moved to Guam for a couple of years, then moved back home to Montana City, where my children finished school, and I started a dog grooming business, which has been successful for over 20 years. It supports my two bad habits...  
rodeoing and barrel racing.

At the present time I belong to three barrel racing associations and what spare time I have left I like to golf and travel to the "off the wall" places with my current husband, Chris.

Thanks for sharing my ride!!!



# 1967



**Stevie Lahti (Neuman)**- I grew up riding my mare on a ranch along Little Prickly Pear Creek and the Missouri River near Wolf Creek, MT, just north of Helena. My family and their many friends from Helena influenced my life in ways I would only have dreamed.

Wolf Creek Elementary and Cascade High School provided my educational foundation, and then on to the University of Montana in Missoula. College curriculum was mandatory for the Elementary Education degree, but the extracurricular activities, including the Last Chance Stampede, were the most exciting!

Every summer my Helena Friends worked to convince me to compete for Miss Last Chance Stampede. In 1967, during the spring quarter of my junior year at college, I finally said 'yes' to my sponsor, the Exchange Club. From that point on... my life changed!

From the country girl to Miss Montana USA, to Miss Last Chance Stampede, to Miss Rodeo Montana and on to represent rodeo and the most beautiful State at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in Las Vegas, NV. Next, I attended the Western Governor's Conference in Yellowstone Park, and had the privilege of riding the Montana Float in the 1968 Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA.

THANKS to my family and friends who believed in me and supported me during my journeys in 1967-68.

In 1968, I began my teaching career in Power, MT. Soon I was ranching and farming along the Muddy Creek and in the Sun River Valley where I reside today. For four years I served as MT Red Cross Financial Development Officer, and with Piper, Jaffray, & Hopwood as wire operator.

Staci, Ty, Matt, and Alyssa are my four children. Staci lives in Spokane, WA and works for the Spokane Community College; Ty is a LT Col in the Air Force and Commander of his squadron at Dias Air Force Base in Abilene, TX; Matt is a Major in the Air Force stationed at Virginia Beach, VA and is deployed with the Navy in eastern waters; and Alyssa is a sophomore at the University of MT in Missoula. Getting the eight grandchildren together at the ranch for some agricultural experiences is a challenge but wonderful and exciting when it happens.

My community involvement has included representing USA Farm Women at the United Nations Women's Conference in New York; National Farmers Union Representative to the National Agricultural Women's Leadership Network; MT Young Leadership Delegate to Japan; Montana Farmer's Union Board of Directors; Cascade County Conservation District Supervisor; and the MT Water Pollution Control Advisory Council.

Life remains very busy ranching and teaching in the Sun River Valley west of Great Falls, MT.



# 1968

**Shauna Johnson (Uperesa)** - When I was Miss Last Chance Stampede, I thought for sure I would be a life-long resident of the great state of Montana.....but is often the case with life.....things changes and after the University of Montana in Missoula, I moved west to the great state of Hawaii where I have lived for the last 42 years (whoa.....that is a scary thought in itself), but have always continued to consider Montana home, where my parents Bill and Tudy Johnson resided until their deaths, and my brother and sister still reside in Helena.

I have been married to Misionare "Misi" Uperesa for the last 38 years, raised 6 great children and now have 13 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren in our ohana. I have had an eclectic life with many careers to include toiling for an airline, Waikiki restaurants and condominiums, real estate businesses and schools. And, of course, motherhood and grand motherhood.

Currently I am working as a Corporate Trainer for electronic medical records for a Healthcare Provider, Kaiser Permanente. I wish all of you the very best.



# 1969

**Marcia Foster (Gray)** - Coming from an outfitter and guide ranch in Lincoln (MT), I had lots of equine teachers who supported me during my decade in the 4-H horse program and High School Rodeo. The Last Chance Stampede Queen Contest, in which I was sponsored by Rotary, provided me with opportunities to improve horsemanship skills while promoting rodeo and Fairs. I represented Montana at the Aquatennial in Minnesota and rode with Barnes Rodeo Company in Buffalo (MN). Returning to Montana State University, I took any class involving horses under the tutelage of great horseman, Bob Miller.

Years later, I recognized the philosophy, horse psychology and training methods of Ray Hunt were first taught to me by Mr. Miller.

Graduating from the College of Agriculture in Animal Science (MSU) working on ranches, and running barrels in MRA, I decided to earn a teaching degree from Carroll College to support my expensive horse habit. My husband, Bill, says there is a clause in the marriage contract to support this horse habit. Bought in 1965 at Missoula auction for \$75, a gangly, grade yearling I named Slim, would be my constant companion for the next 36 years although many other horses would come and go. Slim taught each of our 4 children to ride bareback and western style but, amazingly at age 28, he became a perfect jumping and dressage horse for our daughter who joined Pony Club. I like to joke I had Slim longer than I have been married but in just few years that will no longer be true. Eventually becoming Life Time members of Montana's oldest Saddle Club, the Helena Trail Riders, both Bill and I have served as president and many terms on the Board of Directors of this family oriented horse club. I am in my 22nd year as a 4-H leader and the horse project, I am excited to help celebrate 50 years of Fair and Stampede!



# 1970

**Dee Dee Dear (Rains)** - Dee Dee Rains, the youngest daughter of Doug and Nancy Dear, operates the Birdtail Ranch Quarter Horse operation. She remains dedicated to producing horses that have correct conformation, sweet dispositions, working attitudes and all-around capability.

Dee Dee is the proud mother of two grown sons, Traver and Matt. In addition to running the ranch, Dee Dee teaches foreign languages at Simms High School. She also serves as a local 4-H leader helping area youth learn the value of horses, proper horsemanship and how to get to the winner's circle.

In 1971, Dee Dee ran for Miss Last Chance Stampede and Miss Rodeo Montana. She was successful and champion rodeoed in Montana for a year. She sang the National Anthem at every rodeo she attended and usually placed in the barrel racing too. She was the first State Rodeo Queen to actively participate in pro-rodeo during her reign. She went on to be First Runner-up at the Miss Rodeo America pageant and won the Personality division. She gave her trophy to her sorority for safe-keeping. There probably are not a lot of sorority houses with a MRA trophy on their mantel!

Between music theory, piano practice and voice practice, there just was too little time for jitterbugging at the Silverado, Ft. Collins' cowboy 3.2 place. It was at the Silverado where she first danced with Lennard. A blind date gone sour resulted in being escorted home by Lennard instead; Lennard and Dee Dee danced their way to marriage in 1973.

Upon graduation from CSU in March of 1973, an opportunity for employment arose in the Animal Science Department. Dee Dee was offered a teaching position at the University, but not in her major! Dee Dee became the head riding instructor and taught some Light Horse Management classes as well. At this point in her life entered her all-time favorite mentor, Dr. Larry Slade. Dr. Slade saw her through her Master's degree in Animal Science which was such a challenge since all her undergraduate work was in the Humanities.

For Dee Dee, a priority was her children and her time and effort paid off. Son Traver is a graduate of Southern Methodist University in economics, now currently running his own photography and fashion design business in California. Son Matthew is a West Point graduate in Systems Engineering and just recently retired from the Army where he flew Black Hawk Helicopters. Dee Dee became active in her United Methodist Church playing music, serving as Youth Group Advisor, Sunday School Chairman and numerous other committees. She sang in the Great Falls Symphonic Choir for 6 years. She was just awarded her 15 year pin as a 4-H leader. She started taking students to Europe in 1988 and has taken over 150 Sun River valley students on 8 different tours. She was co-founder of the Valley Citizens Involved in the Arts, a "booster club" for the Arts and Humanities in the valley. She has had many acting roles in the plays sponsored by this group. She was the secretary of the Montana Quarter Horse Association for 9 years, President for 1 and Vice- President another. She has served on the State 4-H Horse Committee and co-wrote a Horsemanship Manual. She judges local horse shows and provides riding instruction on a regular basis. Politics are her interests and maybe someday a reality. Today, Dee Dee runs a portion of Birdtail Ranch for her mother and hopes that someday one of the boys will return to raise a family on the ranch. Both children have been well instructed to never plan to make a living on the ranch, but just to live the best life on earth while here. Dee Dee considers herself lucky to have been able to take care of the land for the last 30 years. She also is grateful for having been able to work at her passions in life - horses, foreign languages and music and to be blessed with a great family.





# 1971

**Bobbi Wirth (Levine)** - I am writing a short letter to let everyone know what has happened to me since I was crowned Miss Last Chance Stampede 1971. First, let me say the becoming Miss Last Chance Stampede was a dream for me that began the first time I attended the Last Chance Stampede as a young girl. I had always loved rodeo and saw the queen contest as my opportunity to be involved in rodeo. To go on and become Miss Rodeo Montana and to do well at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant was thrilling beyond belief. To this day, those experiences have continued to influence my life. I have had so many opportunities because of all the contacts and publicity that occurred while I was a rodeo queen.

After my year as Miss Rodeo Montana, I continued my education at Montana State University and received a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. From there I attended Texas A & M University where I was an instructor in horse management, training and equitation. I received my master's degree in Equine Nutrition in 1977.

In 1978, I married my husband, Dan Levine and moved to the ranch 25 miles north of Wolf Creek where we live today. Dan roped and I ran barrels in many Montana rodeos during our early years together. Another great thrill for me was winning the barrel race at the Last Chance Stampede in 1981. The demands of the ranch forced us to limit our rodeo competition, but we continue to compete at Senior Pro Rodeos in Montana, Wyoming and Canada where we can continue to enjoy rodeo and our many friends that share the same passion.

Our place is a family operation where we raise commercial Black Angus cattle and hay. We have two sons on the ranch, Jason, his wife Chris, and children Payton and Royce, and Sam who has just finished college. Both boys competed in high school and college rodeo. Sam is a very competitive roper and in the PRCA and NRA while Jason prefers all aspects of hunting when he has time off from the ranch.

I am so grateful for the opportunities that resulted because of the queen pageant at the Last Chance Stampede, and am looking forward to the reunion.





# 1972

**Gail Williams (Hatch)** - “I am going to be the rodeo queen someday”, I told my mom when I was 7, while sitting in the grandstands at the Last Chance Stampede, watching Miss Kitty Quigley make her ride. Little did my mother know at that particular point that my dream would be fulfilled 11 years later when I won the title of Miss Last Chance Stampede 1972, just out of high school. My parents, John and Edith Williams were wonderful and supported me the whole way, as well as the rest of my wonderful family, I couldn’t have asked for anything more. The competition was fierce and the competitors were just like me, they had a dream since childhood to be Miss Last Chance Stampede. I competed at the Miss Rodeo Montana contest that fall, falling short of winning the title but loving the preparation, and the journey. What I learned has served me well since then.

I married the year after my reign and found myself in Kalispell for several years for school and then a transfer south took me to Vernal, UT, and the dinosaur capital of the world!!! It was a busy little tourist town in eastern Utah. To keep myself occupied, and to keep in contact with my beloved horses, I started hanging around the racetrack and started exercising race horses and cleaning stalls. When my marriage ended, I met many new friends there and joined a couple of the local horse clubs. In that area, you either barrel raced or roped, I decided to do both. I also trained horses and spent a lot of time on the highway driving from rodeo to rodeo.

Five years later, I met the love of my life. I was also homesick for Montana, so he and I packed up and moved back home. We married here in Helena, and 26 years and two children later, he is still my best friend and mentor. We are the proud grandparents of 3 grandchildren and delight in getting to actually watch them grow. When you are so busy raising your own, sometimes it is hard to stand back and look at the process.

I am still involved with horses and rodeo and team penning, and volunteer every year at the Last Chance Stampede and Fair, first heading up the Entertainment committee, and then Hospitality Committee and the Queen Reunion.

We own High Prairie Performance Horses, breeding and raising cow bred horses with Zan Parr Bar, Bueno Chex, Boon Bar, Colonel Freckles, Peppy San and Smart Little Lena Blood Lines. We are members of the Rocky Mountain Breeders Association and are looking forward to furthering this line of great performance horses.

I learned so much in a short period of time and throughout my reign that year. My only regret was that I didn’t prepare enough! What I thought was enough, is NEVER enough. You keep learning and growing. Hindsight is 20/20 and I have found in my more experienced years, you are not only preparing for that next step, but the BIG Step the BIG win, life!!!

Thanks for allowing me to stroll once again down memory lane and reflect on an experience that I would recommend to any cowgirl! Cowgirl up and go get em’!





**1973**

**Colleen Price (Holt)** - Since 1973 I have married the love of my life, Dave Holt, a cowboy, we have twin boys, Chase and Cotton, now 24 years of age, we all love team roping, raising horses and training horses.

Dave and I both are real estate brokers and have our own home business in Whitehall, Home Maker's Real Estate.

My husband had a short bout with cancer about a year ago. Since then he has developed to tobacco free, herbal chew to help people get off tobacco and save lives, we are now manufacturing the product, "HOLT" World's Greatest Chew with our two boys in family business.



# 1974

**Jann Beck** - The fall after winning the title, I went to school at Montana State University in Bozeman. When I realized I wasn't too serious about my education, I worked at Big Sky Ski Resort during the ski season, and went back to the ranch during the off-season. I later went back to MSU, and spent a few more years taking art and business courses. But I came to the same conclusion as before- not too into schooling. I got good enough grades- just wanted to be outside on the ranch, riding horses.

I met my first husband, at a Ray Hunt horse training clinic. He had come to Montana to do some fly-fishing, and was observing Ray work colts. I moved to California, to his house in Los Altos Hills. It was quite a culture shock for me to wind up in the Silicon Valley, where he was involved in the semiconductor industry. After his death, I moved to Oregon to stay with friends, Jack and Penny Kelley. Through Jack, I was able to get on some really well bred reining/working cow horse colts. They were colts Jack was starting for Chris Fournier, who owned the great stallion, Fritz Command.

Eventually, I met and lived with Mike O'Keefe, who was also involved in cutting, and was president of the Northwest Cutting Horse Association. When he retired from orthopedic surgery, we bought a house in McCall, Idaho, and in Sarasota, Florida. We continued to have cutting horses, and played a lot of golf. I was pursuing my private pilot's license when he died in an airplane crash near the Big Hole in Montana.

I moved back to the ranch after Mike's death, and became involved with Kris Kerpa, who then quit working for Placer Motors to help run my dad's ranch in the Deer Lodge Valley. We had a baby boy that we named Soren. After we worked for my dad for a few years, we moved to Weatherford, Tx, to run the Bar H Ranch, a prominent producer of cutting horses. They stand the stallions Dual Pep and CD Olena, two of the predominant studs in the cutting horse industry. However, we found Texas to be way too hot for a couple of Montanans. Kris then rejoined the military, and was based in D.C. for a year before serving in Africa, and Yemen. Soren and I stayed in Montana while he was abroad. When he got back, we moved to Colorado. We operated the Sleeping Indian Ranch in Ridgway. Quite a bit of the movie True Grit was filmed on the ranch and around Ridgway. In fact, the town scene was filmed right in Ridgway, and looks much the same as it did in the movie. Because of the way the economy was going, Kris rejoined the military two years ago, and is currently with NORCOM in Colorado Springs. We are living in Woodland Park, with Pikes Peak out our living room window. Soren is now 12 years old, and enjoying his summer off from school. My experience as Miss Last Chance Stampede has had a lasting effect on me, knocking off some of the rough edges, and giving me a lot of much-needed confidence.

I appreciate the Exchange Club for sponsoring me back then, and the contributors and the people who put on the Last Chance Stampede.

I still have my Miss Last Chance Stampede ribbons, and the great buckle that was awarded at the time. The Last Chance Stampede remains one of the great rodeo traditions of our country.





**1975**

**Sandy Price** – Sandy has a son, now the age of 21, in College at Washington State, becoming a Dentist, she is a single Mom, living in Florida, training Polo Horses. She loves the warm weather in Florida and her horses.



# 1976

**Lynne VanDeRiet (Eustance)**- Has been teaching 5th grade at Frenchtown school. Previous to that she taught 6th grade for four years and before that P.E. for fifteen years. She has been in education for 30 years and continue to enjoy her teaching experiences every year. She is married with two children, Michael, a daughter that goes to college at OIT in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and a son, Heath, who attends college in Redding, CA. My husband Bob is a teacher at Big Sky High School in Missoula.





**1977**

**Kari Dawson** - If you have contact information for Kari, please contact the Fairgrounds at 406 457  
8516

# 1978

**Annie Beck-** After 1978 I graduated from Montana State, taught in Bozeman for 5 years. In 1984 married Ed Anderson. We taught in a remote bush village in Alaska for 8 years where we experienced the Yupik Eskimo culture. We enjoyed the great outdoors in the Alaskan wilderness where there were no fences, gates or roads. I took a special interest in the school library, building and computerizing the collection. We bought a house on Flathead Lake 23 years ago, and have lived in the Flathead Valley full time for 17 years.

In 1993 we became involved in Mail Boxes Etc Franchise, which later became The UPS Store. We started a store in Polson, MT, bought another in Kalispell. In 1997 bought the area franchise rights to WY. We've sold all our stores but still have the area franchise to WY. As area franchisees, we make sure stores are compliant, train new store owners, sell stores and provide support.

Last year we became involved in the San Francisco Sourdough Eatery Franchise in MT and ID with a partner. SFSE is an upscale sandwich shop that uses high quality meats and fresh sourdough bread. I am on the Mary Bennett Memorial Scholarship Committee for Powell County High School students.

This is personally gratifying as Mary was a close friend and classmate.

We enjoy traveling, outdoor activities, family gatherings. We look forward to sun on the lake so we can get the water skis out and look for smooth water. We walk our dogs in the mountains every day, looking forward to spotting the local wildlife, including bear, elk, deer, moose, mountain lion and many types of birds.



# 1979



**Nancy Nell** – Hello everyone! First I would like to thank Gail for volunteering her time to put this “50 years of Stampede Memories” reunion together. Your time and talent are very much appreciated and I hope I will be able to make it to Helena for the event.

Reflecting on my rodeo queen experiences, I first have to thank Kay Johnston. It was at a high school rodeo that she first planted the idea of me competing for queen using one of her family’s amazing horses, “Dandy”. I competed on Dandy at many a queen event. From my first win as a Montana District High School Rodeo Queen to competing for Miss Rodeo Montana, I will always treasure the memories of being an ambassador for the sport of rodeo and of all the supportive and amazing people I met through my love of rodeo.

When I ran for Miss Last Chance Stampede in the summer of 1979 I was attending Western Montana College, now the University of Montana Western. I graduated in 1983 with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education with art, library and computer science certifications. While going to college in Dillon, I was on a rodeo scholarship and it was the first time in WMC history that the women’s rodeo team made it to the College National Finals Rodeo. I was extremely proud of that achievement and have to thank my amazing family that supported my horse endeavors (or shall I say rodeo addiction). I need to thank my sister Joan for letting me use her horse “Slick” to do so well in roping and goat tying in college.

The next part of my life involved my love of children. My teaching career began in earnest in the fall of 1983. I taught for 2 years in Geyser. Then a PRCA rodeo bull rider I had dated in college wanted me to move to western Montana so I accepted a teaching job in Dixon on the Flathead Indian Reservation. I taught there for 7 years.

My next adventure took me to Kodiak Island in Alaska. Alaska was a dream location for my new husband, Rick, who was a hunting guide. I taught native Alutiiq in two different remote bush villages for 10 years, and then taught at both East Elementary and Peterson Elementary in the city of Kodiak. Some interesting tidbits from Kodiak were finding ponies and a 4-H club in the first village I taught in as well as reconnecting with a childhood rodeo friend (Rohn Nelson) who was living and working on the island. They even had rodeos there. “Kodiak Island Rodeo – It’s not just a rodeo thing – It’s a family thing.” Believe it or not there was even a queen contest. On Kodiak I traded my horses, truck and horse trailer for a life of 4-wheelers, hunting and fishing. My first year there I drew a Kodiak bear tag and had a world class hunt with my husband that ended with me shooting a bear.

I left Kodiak Island and teaching to come home to Montana to help take care of my father who was terminally ill. He has since passed away and I am now living in Great Falls near my mother and one of my sisters and her family.

I now enjoy being in the mountains, bicycling, hiking, fishing, photography, antler basketry, attending sporting events of my niece and nephew and volunteering.

I loved being Miss Last Chance Stampede and am grateful to all the people who volunteered of their time and talent that year, especially Linda Ryan who chaired the queen contest and Ben Hopkins from the Exchange Club (my sponsor). It was a life experience that helped shape me these past 30 years. Thank You!





# 1980

**Cindy Chevallier (Gruwell)** – Wow what can I say...it's been quite a ride since 30 years ago when I was crowned 1980 Miss Last Chance Stampede.

Raised out at Canyon Creek on our family ranch, horses and rodeo became a way of life for me. I worked my way through the ranks from 4-H, MJRA, NIRA, WPRA and currently am a member of the Sr. Pro Rodeo Assoc.. Rodeo has remained a steady part of my life. I have retired so to speak from the barrel racing but love nothing better than to rope calves in the ladies breakaway and head in the team roping. The friends and contacts I've made along the way in my "rodeo career" reach far and wide. It's an extended family like nothing else. I'm truly blessed to have all of these people in my life.

I have two wonderful sons that I'm so very proud of. Zack is currently serving in the U.S. Navy as a member of the Blue Angels Demonstration flying team. He is a mechanic. Kyle is on a pipeline welding crew working on getting his welding certification and his own welding truck. Both boys are avid ropers and rope every chance their schedules will allow.

I furthered my education in Casper, Wy and received an Associates Degree. In 2003 I went back to school once again and got a cosmetology license. I owned and ran my own business for 3 years with my cosmetology. I'm currently living in Newcastle, Wyoming running a feed store and loving every minute of it.

Life is Good....Happy Trails.





# 1981

**Kelly Green (Calnan)** - From the time I was a little girl I loved horses and the western way of life. I have vivid memories of seeing the beautiful rodeo queens and dreaming that one day I would wear that crown.

In 1974 my father retired from the military and we moved home to Montana permanently. I spent my teenage years active in the Helena Trail Riders, 4-H, O-Mok-See and rodeo, all the while cultivating my love of horses and my dreams of being a rodeo queen.

I was lucky to have a family that supported my passion and spent their days hauling me around this great state to various events and shows. I graduated from Helena High School in 1981 and won the title of Miss Last Chance Stampede later that summer.

In 1983 I married the love of my life. Marty and I are blessed with 2 wonderful sons, Cory, a wild land firefighter in Dillon Montana and Matthew, currently serving in Afghanistan with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne. I went on to attend school at Carroll College and am currently employed by CUsource LLC.

I have stayed close to my roots here in Helena and currently reside in Montana City. While I don't ride like I used to, I still have a great love of horses and wouldn't dream of not having at least one on the ol' homestead! These days my hobbies include hiking, fishing and enjoying all the natural wonders that Montana has to offer.

I'm honored to be a part of the 50 year celebration of the Last Chance Stampede. I've spent many happy years at the fair and rodeo as a participant and as supporter. I treasure the memories of my reign as Miss Last Chance Stampede and look forward to sharing them with a granddaughter due to arrive in September!



# 1982

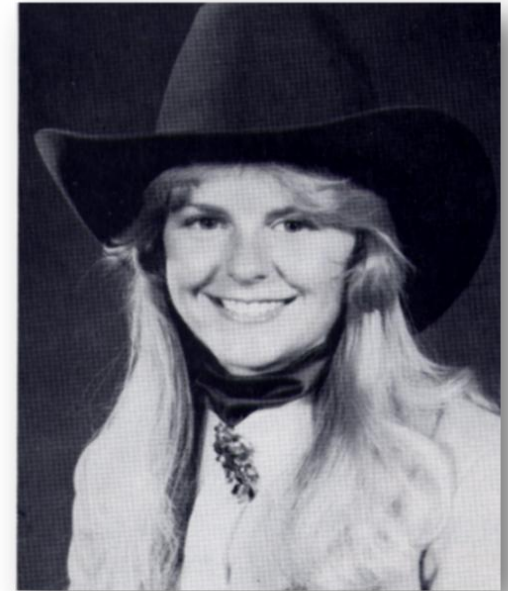
**Tammy Anders (Novotny)** - After my reign in 1984 I remained active in the PRCA/WPRA as a competitor and also a spokesperson for Coors. In 1985 I married the love of my life, PRCA rodeo clown, John Novotny from Winner, SD. John and I have made our home and raised our family in the Helena Valley for the last 22 years where we run a cow/calf operation. I have also been employed by the Helena Multiple Listing Service since 1981 as their Executive Director.

We have 3 wonderful daughters, Bailee (21), Annie (20) and Allie (15) who have carried on the rodeo tradition in our family. Bailee and Annie are WPRA card holders and also rodeo in the NRA circuit. Allie competes in high school rodeos and the NRA. We proudly added a new member to our family in June as Bailee married Travis Stovall from Roberts, MT. Travis is a team roper in the PRCA and NRA also. All 3 of them will be competing in the Stampede this year (they would love to hear some cheering from the “queen section”).

My passion of barrel racing has not subsided much and I still enjoy starting barrel horses and entering jackpot barrel races. The kids take care of my “itch” to rodeo but John and I take great pleasure in watching them compete. It has also kept us reunited with all of our great rodeo families. The Novotny family has been truly blessed with a great western way of life and we give thanks daily for those opportunities.

I hope you all enjoy the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Last Chance Stampede Fair and Rodeo and all of the festivities. I look forward to seeing you.

Please know that our home and corrals are always open if you ever need a place to stay in Helena.



# 1983

**Jennifer Gruel (Thompson)** - Jennifer Gruel (Thompson) - Jennifer Gruel is the daughter of Bobby Gruel and the late Don Gruel. She is a 1981 graduate of Helena High School and attended Montana State University. Jennifer was a member of 4-H and the Montana State Horseshow Association. She enjoyed competing and showing her horses around the State of Montana where she won many trail, western pleasure, and horsemanship awards. Jennifer won the title of Miss Last Chance Stampede in 1983 and was honored to represent Helena and the Last Chance Stampede Rodeo.

Jennifer returned to college at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and received a bachelor of science degree in Business Education in 1995. She currently lives in Park Hill, Oklahoma, with her husband Jamie and two sons Donnie and Alex. Donnie just finished his first year of college, and Alex will start his freshman year of high school in the fall. Jennifer is a high school business and computer technology teacher. She enjoys her teaching career and was awarded teacher of the year in 2000. She is also the academic team coach, and her 8th-9th grade team won the state championship in the Oklahoma Junior Academic Bowl Association in 2009. Jennifer still enjoys her horses, owning one that her sons have shown at halter. She regularly returns to Montana to see family and friends and enjoy the great outdoors.





# 1984

**Francine Giono (Janik)** – Francine Giono was the Exchange Club’s queen candidate and after winning Miss Last Chance Stampede was First Runner-up in the Miss Rodeo Montana contest. Francine graduated from Montana State University with a degree in Agriculture Education and teaching minors in chemistry and Biology. While at MSU Francine was on MSU’s National Champion Livestock Judging Team, was SPUR president and was one of the founding members of CERES an international agriculture fraternity for women. Francine became an NREMT in 1990 and worked for the Town of Whitehall Ambulance. She began her career in law enforcement with the Montana Highway Patrol in 1991. In 1992, during a routine traffic stop, Janik was shot in the line of duty. She managed to regain her composure and returned fire, killing her assailant. Later, it was determined that the deceased had murdered two people in Douglas County, Nevada. Francine received the Medal of Valor from the State of Montana, the Silver Star for Bravery and the Legion of Honor award from the American Police Hall of Fall. Other awards included The Exchange Clubs of America Blue and Gold Service Award and the State of Montana 1992 Hero of the Year Award. Francine was asked to do both a TOP COPS and Real Stories of the Highway Patrol TV series and was Truck Vault’s first Hero Hunt Award winner and was given the opportunity to do a TV hunting show. In 2003 Francine received the Red Cross of Montana, Hero of the Year Award, for saving lives in the Whitehall area.

Francine retired from the MHP in 1995 to ranch in Whitehall. Francine lives with her 7 year old son Colin and in her free time still enjoys roping. Currently Francine works as the Service Director and Training Coordinator for the Whitehall Ambulance, Reserve Deputy Sheriff for Jefferson County and an Investigator for DPHHS.

The year as Miss Last Chance Stampede was a great experience filled with fantastic people and wonderful learning opportunities.





# 1985

**Kim Baum (Watne)** – I married Tim Watne in June of 1987 and we have three boys, Tyler 19, Josh 17, and Sam 15. We have lived in Winston and managed a ranch for the past 21 years, while raising the boys in a lifestyle that is a family tradition and one that I love.

In 2009, I chose to return to the workforce that enables me to receive a steady paycheck. I am now working for the State of Montana in the same department that I left over 20 years ago. (Ironic) We are very involved in the Broadwater County 4-H program. We all enjoy hunting and spending time in the Elkhorn mountains. We have numerous trophy animals and even more photos and stories. All of our boys are avid outdoorsmen, and excellent archery hunters.

I still ride the saddle that I won as Miss Last Chance Stampede. It has not seen many barrels or rodeos, but has traveled many rough miles behind lots of cattle.

I wish I could be in Helena to help celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, but am committed to the Broadwater County 4-H program and the Townsend Fair, which is also during the Last Chance Stampede and Fair.

Thanks for the memories, and keep the spirit alive.



# 1986

**Jan Finn** – I worked as a cosmetologist for several years in a Helena salon and continued to maintain my Professional and Occupational License.

After earning an Associate Degree from the Helena College of Technology, I worked for the State of Montana for 13 years starting with the Department of Natural Resources, then being moved into Department of Environmental Quality. I spent the majority of my State employment with the Department of Livestock in the State Veterinarian's Office.

We currently raise Quarter Horse and Paint horses bred for reined cow horse.

I am an active member of the Rocky Mountain Breeders Association and helps further the promotion of quality performance horses, and enjoy being an ambassador of the horse industry through writing a bi-monthly newsletter for RMBA. I enjoy promoting and showing in reined cow horse shows and ranch horse competitions on horses from their breeding program. I also currently volunteer as a 4-H horse leader.





# 1987

**Renee Walchuk (Wall)** – After spending the year as Miss Last Chance Stampede, Renee' earned the title of Miss Rodeo Montana and went on to be a top ten finalist at the Miss Rodeo America contest. In 1990 Renee' became the state director of the Miss Rodeo Montana organization and held this position for four years.

She is a 1987 graduate of Carroll College with a degree in elementary education. Renee' and her husband Barry currently reside in Helena raising their four children – Ryan (18), Braden (15), Cameron (13) and Cailyn (10).

She is the Associate Director of Athletics at Carroll College.





# 1988-1989

## **Stepanie Kington (Gannon) – Challis, Idaho**

Miss Last Chance Stampede (via Miss Suds Hut) 1988-1990

Horsemanship, Speech, Congeniality

2nd Runner Up Miss Rodeo Montana 1989

Congeniality

Graduated from Montana Tech, December 1992

Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering

Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science

Minor in Business Finance

Worked for Amerada Hess, Houston, TX 1993-1995 - Offshore Petroleum Engineer

Worked for Amerada Hess, Williston, ND 1995-1996 - Onshore Petroleum Engineer

Worked for Santa Fe Pacific Gold, Winnemucca, NV 1996-1998 Dewatering Engineer then Coordinator

Married Patrick Gannon in Helena, MT February 17, 1996

Had first child, Ryan Gannon, in Reno, NV January 28, 1998

Worked for Phelps Dodge, Morenci, AZ 1998-2000 - Environmental Dept, Water Quality

Had second child, Chase Gannon, in Safford, AZ July 6, 2000

Moved to Absarokee, MT July 2002

PTA and AWANA

Moved to Challis, ID January 2007

PTA, Challis Youth Athletics, Sigma Beta Phi Sorority

Worked for Challis School District 2007-Present

Food Services Dept (School Cook)



# 1990



**Jamie Glicko (Martin)** - After my Rodeo Queen Days... I continued living in Great Falls and started barrel racing and rodeoing. I worked as an Account Executive for KMON radio for 5 years, was a sales manager for Hit Kickin Country 104.9 for 3 years. I married the love of my life Todd Martin in 2002. I then started a career in Mortgage working for Wells Fargo & Countrywide Home Mortgage Company.

We had a devastating loss of my brother & best friend Dusty Gliko. I know he is still with us and has a big job in heaven... taking care of me!

Then, one of my dreams came true! Todd and I built a horse facility called King Equestrian Center where we boarded outside horses & promoted and coordinated functions in our indoor and outdoor arena. We had 6 great, crazy busy years there and then we sold it 1 year ago.

Now I am currently running some of our other businesses and looking for my next great endeavor. So be looking for the birth of my new clothing line in the making "Dirty Glitter" (Dusty's rodeo nickname)! I have been blessed to meet many amazing people along the way and look forward to the exciting future.



# 1991

**Michelle Marsh** – Welcome, Last Chance Stampede Rodeo fans. My name is Michelle Lee Marsh. I had the marvelous opportunity of representing this fine rodeo and my hometown in 1991. My life was forever changed when I said "I think I can". I think I can became I did it. I later went on and was 2nd runner up for Miss Rodeo Montana.

Daily, I am reminded how much my faith, an inner desire, a supportive family, horses, rodeo and team penning, have placed many wonderful experiences in my life. I share my passion for agriculture and rodeo with my daughter. We are working on building our farm/ranch as a sustaining environment. My dream is that our place can be an educational tool of where our food comes from, teaching ethics, respect, and the importance of working individually yet together. As was taught to me "it is greater to give than to receive." Everyday we can give a gift as simple as a smile, or the word "hello". We can be involved in our community not just part of the community. I can cut my hair and gift it to "Locks of Love". We can share encounters with others like first parade, rodeo, or trip to a farm is still today very heart warming. Even a routine stop at a fuel station can bless several families.

One never knows the impact just one person can have in a life. Thank you to each and everyone past and present that is part of the Last Chance Stampede Fair and Rodeo. Thank you for the opportunity. Bless the trails you travel.





## 1992-1993

**Jessica Lee (Peterson)-** Miss Last Chance Stampede 1992-93, is originally from Choteau MT. She is the daughter of Dr. Robert and Gail Lee. She was Miss Rodeo Montana 1993-94 and was 2nd Runner-up to Miss Rodeo America.

In 1997 Jessica graduated from Montana State University with a Bachelors degree in Nursing. Her nursing practice expertise includes rural hospital settings, traveling nurse, Home Infusion nursing, PICC line placement and work for a plastic surgeon.

Jessica married Joe Petersen of Three Forks in May of 2001. Together they have two children, Abigail (5) and Samuel (19mo). She now enjoys staying home and being mom, riding horses with her kids, flower gardening and running/hiking/biking in the mountains.

The Petersen family owns and operates Three Forks Saddlery in Three Forks, MT.

“My experience as Miss Last Chance Stampede was simply wonderful. I will always remember and treasure the dedicated people that tirelessly gave of their time and energy to support the Last Chance Stampede Rodeo, the Queen Contest and me. They believed in their roles with passion and it was truly amazing. As Miss Rodeo Montana I enjoyed with a grateful heart continued support from the committee. It was a grand homecoming to be Miss Rodeo Montana at The Last Chance Stampede! I am so thankful for this life experience.”





# 1994

**Kea Smith (Waddell)**- Kea Smith-Waddell returned to the Helena Valley after college in Wyoming. In addition to working in the mental health field, she has operated Heart Anchor Paints and Quarter Horses for the past fifteen years.

Kea has enjoyed hauling her two girls to Horse Shows and Barrel Races and finding the warm family atmosphere and camaraderie still available in any fairgrounds you pull into in Montana.

She is pleased to be a part of the celebration for the 50th Anniversary of the Last Chance Stampede and Fair.



# 1995



**Darcy Hardie (Alm)**- Daughter of Bill and Sandy Hardie. Married Chris Alm and moved back to Birdseye to spend time with her horses and dogs at the family ranch. Loves to compete, especially in O-Mok-see, where she is a frequent top 10 rider at the state and national level. Currently is the NSCA royalty director. She is active in local O-Mok-See events and organizations. Her favorite horse is Fancy, and this year she is bringing up a new horse Flex who she will be competing on at the NSCA championships in Kalispell. Her theme song is "Kick A Little" by Little Texas. She Loves to sing and has sung lead in some local bands and weddings and is a talented writer of parodies to current songs. She is a warming smile for everyone, and encourages the best from all around her.



# 1996

**Mariah Sinerius (Allen)** - In celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the LCS Fair & Rodeo, I was contacted to write a bio about myself as a former titleholder. In the throws of a busy life with an 18 month old (Hudson, daughter#1), a 2 month old (Harlow, daughter#2), a business manager and wife, I quickly wrote a short "queen" bio, one I had written many times before! Piece of cake, wrote a couple paragraphs and hit send; done, crossed off of my list of my many things to do for the day! As I went on maternity leave, I realized that the Last Chance Stampede Fair & Rodeo was a huge part of my life for 25 years, it wasn't just about being a title holder! So, I digress and forgive me for the length...

"I was born and raised in Helena, MT to Allen Sinerius and Char Archibald. Riding and competing was my passion! I began barrel racing at the local SMBRA's with my dear friend Erin Williams (LaFromboise) and she then encouraged me to compete in high school rodeos. Thus my journey began and many rodeo people became inspirational to me and helped along the way...Janet Erickson, Alvin & Judy Wagner, Tom & Trudy Anders and numerous others. Missy Eva (Sampson) and Jessica Lee (Peterson) were my inspiration to become a rodeo queen and not just any rodeo but Miss Rodeo Montana! My pursuit began in high school, competing for the District 5 title. I was hooked. Upon graduating from Capital High School in 1996, that summer I competed for Miss Last Chance Stampede and won! It was an amazing experience, but the most amazing part was the opportunity to represent a town and rodeo community that I loved! After winning the MLCS title, I moved to Bozeman to attend college and continued to pursue my goal to become Miss Rodeo Montana. To polish my horsemanship skills I worked for Jeff Griffith, an amazing horse trainer from the Bozeman area. With the same support and many more people behind me, I won the title of Miss Rodeo Montana 1999. What a year that I will never forget! I will always cherish my year as MLCS and Miss Rodeo Montana. Both titles afforded me the opportunity to represent a wonderful state of people that taught and gave me so much. It also gave me the confidence in life to pursue other things in I never thought possible.

Time has flown by! In 2000, I married my wonderful husband, Ryan Allen, a former rodeo competitor as well. In 2002, I earned my Bachelor of Science degree from Montana State University in Psychology with a communication and business emphasis. Currently, I manage Synergy Medical Spa at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. Ryan and I enjoy being outdoors with our two little blessings, our girls. We love trail running, bike riding, hiking, traveling, photography and enjoying a great cup of java together! Currently, I am training to run the L.A. Rock n' Roll ½ marathon and hope to accomplish a full marathon in 2011. Rodeo and riding horses has become a thing of my past, but will always remain a huge part of my life. It will always be my roots and I will always cherish the people and the memories that shaped who I am today. Thank you to everyone who has made the Last Chance Stampede Fair & Rodeo what it is today and affording me the opportunity to represent you for a year. It is still one of my favorite pro rodeos to attend and I will always look forward to bringing my family back to enjoy the fun and excitement I experienced as a child!"

