

William E. Ward

2004 SRVHS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

William E. Ward, Class 1936:

William E. Ward or Bill to those who knew him best was born in 1923 in Diablo, California (what is now known as Danville) and attended Danville schools in and around Danville until 1936, when at the tender age of 13 he left home to join the rough and tumble world of rodeo.

This first such rodeo was in Carson City, Nevada where Bill “learned the ropes” quickly. Bill also learned a game called bull riding – a sport that seemed to course through his veins.

Bill didn’t stop his pursuit of a dream for the next 20 years as he went from city to city competing as a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Not only did Bill love what he was doing day after day, but he was also quite good at it. Bill was a natural and a winner at every event.

Mr. Ward received many awards along the way, including ceremonial saddles, belt buckles and even a watch from the Calgary Rodeo in Canada.

After Bill retired, every rodeo he attended thereafter they honored him for his achievements and contribution to the sport.

Bill died in a tragic accident in 1992 but lives on as an inductee to the 2001 PRCA Hall of Fame which was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The induction to the PRCA Hall of Fame is the highest honor and achievement in rodeo. It is an honor to honor him as a hometown hero by inducting him into the SRVHS Athletic Hall of Fame.