



44th Annual UT Martin College Rodeo in April



Chelsie McDade

The highlight of "Rodeo Week" is of course the UT Martin Annual College Rodeo. This year we are celebrating the 44th Annual Spring College Rodeo and the dates are April 12 – 14. For the past six consecutive years our rodeo has been chosen "Rodeo of the Year" by the Ozark Region. We have been setting attendance records the past few years and we are working hard to continue that trend. New this year is funny man, Greek Ellick, who will keep everyone laughing.

Thursday night is Bargain Night at the Rodeo, and all tickets are \$6.00. The Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team will perform the opening, so arrive early to see them in action. The evening is sponsored by Tyson, Obion County Complex, and the performance begins at 7:30 p.m. You can watch all the NIRA college contestants in each of 9 college rodeo events and Tim Fuller returns as the rodeo announcer. Everyone can register FREE to win an MTD riding lawn mower.

Friday Night the rodeo is sponsored by Tennessee Tractor and is "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" night to raise money for breast cancer awareness. The evening will begin at 7:10 with the Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team. They put on a good show, so be sure to arrive early to watch them perform. If the lawnmower wasn't won on Thursday night, a second drawing will take place for a free chance to win.

The Martin Paving Company Championship Finals will begin at 7:30 on Saturday night at 7:30. The performance will feature the top 10 contestants from each event, competing for the championship buckle. Come see the "best of the best" compete!

There will be different silent auction items each night of the rodeo. We get new items in daily so check the silent auction list at www.utmsports.com. Just click on rodeo, and the list is in a sidebar to the right. You can also see the items described on the UTM Rodeo Facebook page. A highlight this year is a donation from the Green Bay Packers of hometown hero, Chad Clifton's Super Bowl (back up) jersey, autographed by Chad. It is really sweet, and a one of a kind gift, complete with the Super Bowl logo.



Ty Houston



Warren Cagle

Auction Events at UT Martin “Rodeo Week” in April

Chad Clifton Super Bowl Jersey In Auction

Each night of the rodeo different items will be displayed in a silent auction with proceeds to benefit the rodeo team’s scholarship program. One of the highlight’s of this year’s auction is a gift sent by the Green Bay Packers of hometown hero, Chad Clifton’s Super Bowl (back up) Jersey, autographed by Chad. The jersey is really sweet and includes the Super Bowl logo on the front. It will be featured on Saturday night in the silent auction.

We get new items in daily, so you can go to www.utmsports.com and click on rodeo to see an updated list of all items. The auction list is on a sidebar to the right. You can also find a description of all the silent auction items on the UTM Facebook page.



There will be unique items featuring the UTM rodeo steer-head logo, jewelry, custom knives, tack, western artwork, clothing, gift certificates, purses, horseshoe designs, prints, furniture, books, and Branson, Nashville, Memphis, and Gatlinburg attractions and show tickets. The list grows each day!

www.utmsports.com

Edward Jones Investments Free Barbecue and Scholarship Auction

The Edward Jones Investments of Martin brings us the Free Barbecue and Scholarship Auction that will be held Saturday, April 14, indoors in the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex, beginning at 11:00 a.m. There will be silent auction items to bid on while eating some amazing barbecue! Then the big event, the Live Scholarship Auction, will begin at 12:30 p.m.

We are thankful for the support of Harald Melson, Todd Hampton & Jennifer Hampton for this event.

You never know what unique things may show up at the auction. In years past we have had unique

UTM Rodeo items, Branson, Nashville & Pigeon Forge attraction tickets, knives, western artwork, tack, WWE, feed, jewelry, clothing, and one of a kind hand-crafted items. See Auctionzip.com for live auction item list.

Go to:

www.Auctionzip.com

EQyss Grooming Products Crawfish Supper April 11

A highlight of “Rodeo Week” is always the Crawfish Supper put on by the Rodeo Booster Club. It kicks off the beginning of our rodeo activities and is always a favorite – from those that gorge on the crawdads to those who settle for hamburgers, corn on the cob, and lots of fun talk about “back in the day...” it’s a tradition that is unique to the rodeo and hard to beat. You never know who is in town and may show up to grab a plate of crawdads!

As always, it will be held at the American Legion in Martin. It will be held Wednesday, April 11, and the booster club members will begin serving crawfish, corn on the cob, and new potatoes at 5:30 p.m. Hamburgers and hotdogs are also available. Everyone is invited to enjoy a festive evening, meet the rodeo team, and join the booster club. The public is welcome!

The cost is \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 per family. New members can join the booster club and former members can renew their memberships at this event. For more information or info about the Rodeo Booster Club, please call Russ Finney 731-973-2907 or Katie Brooks at 270-627-1031.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?



If you are driving north on highway 45 from Jackson to Martin, be on the lookout for this billboard promoting the UT Martin College Rodeo. The picture is of UTM cowgirl, Heather Moore, competing last June at the College National Finals Rodeo on her great horse, Hero. Heather is a two time Ozark Regional Champion in the barrel race.

The billboard is located on the west side of the road, on the northern outskirts of Milan.



Pictured from left to right are: Lauren Berner, Miss Tennessee Teen Rodeo; Katie McKenzie, Miss UTM Rodeo and Breezy Smith, Miss Tennessee Rodeo signing autographs.

7th Annual Tennessee National Guard Jr. Miss and Miss UT Martin Rodeo Pageant



Miss UTM Rodeo 2011 Katie McKenzie.

This is the seventh year for the Rodeo Pageant and it grows each year. This year the pageant will be held in the Westview High School Theatre in Martin, Tennessee on Saturday, March 31. The age divisions are as follows: girls 0 – 12 months at 2:00 p.m.; 1 – 3 years at 2:20 p.m.; the 4 – 6 year olds will be at 2:40 p.m.; (Evening gown only) 7 – 9 year olds at 3:00 p.m.; 10 – 12 year olds at 3:20 p.m.; 13 – 15 years at 3:40 p.m.; and 16 – 20 year olds at 4:00 p.m.

Photographer will be available for pictures.

There is a \$25.00 fee for all age groups with side categories available for additional cost.

Admission is \$5.00 and kids under 5 are free.

For application locations and more information contact 731-225-1227 or 731-479-1866.

Last year Katie McKenzie won Miss UT Martin Rodeo and Bailey Swaim was crowned Teen Miss UTM Rodeo.



Pictured above are Miss Tennessee Rodeo Breezy Smith and Miss Tennessee Junior Rodeo Summer Weldon.

Miss UTM Rodeo Katie McKenzie and Miss Tennessee Tenn Rodeo Lauren Berner are pictured at the left.



John Alley

Win a Free MTD Riding Lawnmower

*At the 44th Annual UTM Rodeo
April 12, 13, and 14*



For many years now, MTD has graciously donated a riding lawnmower to the UT Martin Rodeo Team. The free drawing to win the lawnmower is becoming a rodeo tradition. On Thursday night 3 names win be drawn. The first person will attempt a 40' horseshoe toss. If they get a "ringer" they walk away with a free lawnmower. If they miss, the second person attempts a toss from 30' and if they fail to connect, a third person will get a chance from 20' to get the ringer and win the mower.

If no one wins the riding lawnmower on Thursday night, the process will repeat on Friday, even adding a fourth contestant to throw a horseshoe from 10' in an attempt to successfully win the lawnmower.

Make sure you sign up the drawing when you enter the Ag Pavilion. There will be tables at each entrance for you to register to win a free MTD riding lawnmower.



Natalie Brundige



Tyler Waltz

DOC

Dr. Niels Whitney Robinson was his formal name; most of us knew him as Doc Robby or simply Doc. Doc was a member of the UTM Ag Facility & the Founding Father of the UTM Rodeo Team. For those of us that were fortunate enough to know this man, we were very blessed. For those of you that didn't have the chance to have Doc in your life, then maybe a little reflection of him can be seen in those that did. Doc was one that could see the promise in people and he seemed to never give up on

anyone. The rougher the person was, the harder he tried to get that person to see what he saw in them. Sometimes it worked and there are numerous individuals that are a credit to his efforts. And in turn, many, many of the guys and girls that Doc pushed into being the person they could be have helped countless others to do the same.

Linville Freeman, big and tough as he was, showed immense respect & love towards Doc and would often refer to being seated in that cow-

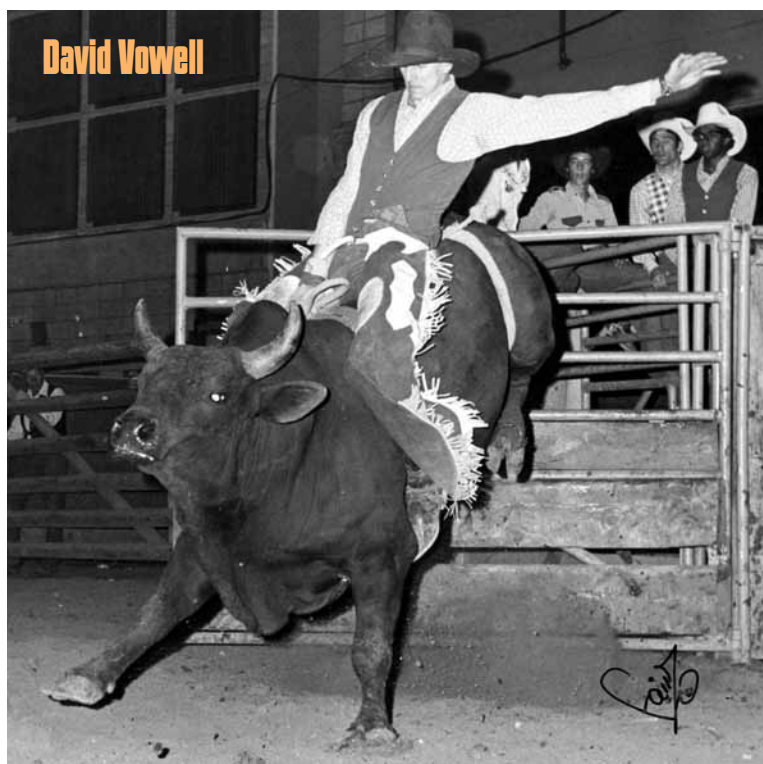
hide chair in Doc's office receiving a "Come to Doc" talk. Several pairs of Wranglers have found themselves parked in the very spot with a very nervous young person in said jeans wondering if he/she was going to make it through this "talk" with a certain part of his/her anatomy intact. Linville said that he pretty much worn that cowhide seat out himself and was rather concerned about those that came after him having a place to sit! Man, both of these guys are greatly missed. But, both of these guys are still with us in a way.

Anyone that knew Doc has a Doc Story, there's no way around it, you've got one. One of these stories that have been passed down was of a time in route to the College National Finals Rodeo in Bozeman, MT; when they were all hauling in a makeshift convoy and all desperately needed baths. So they pull over in a seemly very remote area, grab the soap and they commenced to skinny dipping in one of the warm springs in the area.

Little did they know they were very near a major highway and when people saw all of the trucks and trailers parked where they were, why naturally they thought there was something to see right there at that particular spot. And as it turns out there was something to see. They were witness to several lunar eclipses and red faces that did tend to border on solar eclipse as well, Doc included! And in less than a month, The National Park Service ruled that bathing in Yellowstone Park was no longer permitted.

Bruce Davis, now Dr. Davis, wrote a poem for Doc that was delivered at Doc's service, it has sadly been lost to time, but if anyone has a copy, please get it to me. Ernie Roberts, long time student and friend of Doc's and also part-time Cowboy Poet has written a poem that I think is a fitting way to end this little article; hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

David Pruitt
DavidPruitt1979@gmail.com



UTM Rodeo Schedule 2012

Univ of Ark at Monticello – March 29 - 31

The University of Tenn. at Martin – April 12 - 14

Northwest Mississippi (Senatobi, MS) – April 19 - 21

Northwest Mississippi (Centerton, AR) – April 26 – 28

Keep up with UT Martin Rodeo results at
www.utmsports.com

THE MAN CALLED "DOC"

He was my preacher, he was my teacher, known to all as "DOC".
A man of honor, with a heart of gold and solid as a rock.

He didn't teach me how to spur a bull or how tight to pull my rope.

He taught me real lessons of life and to never give up hope.

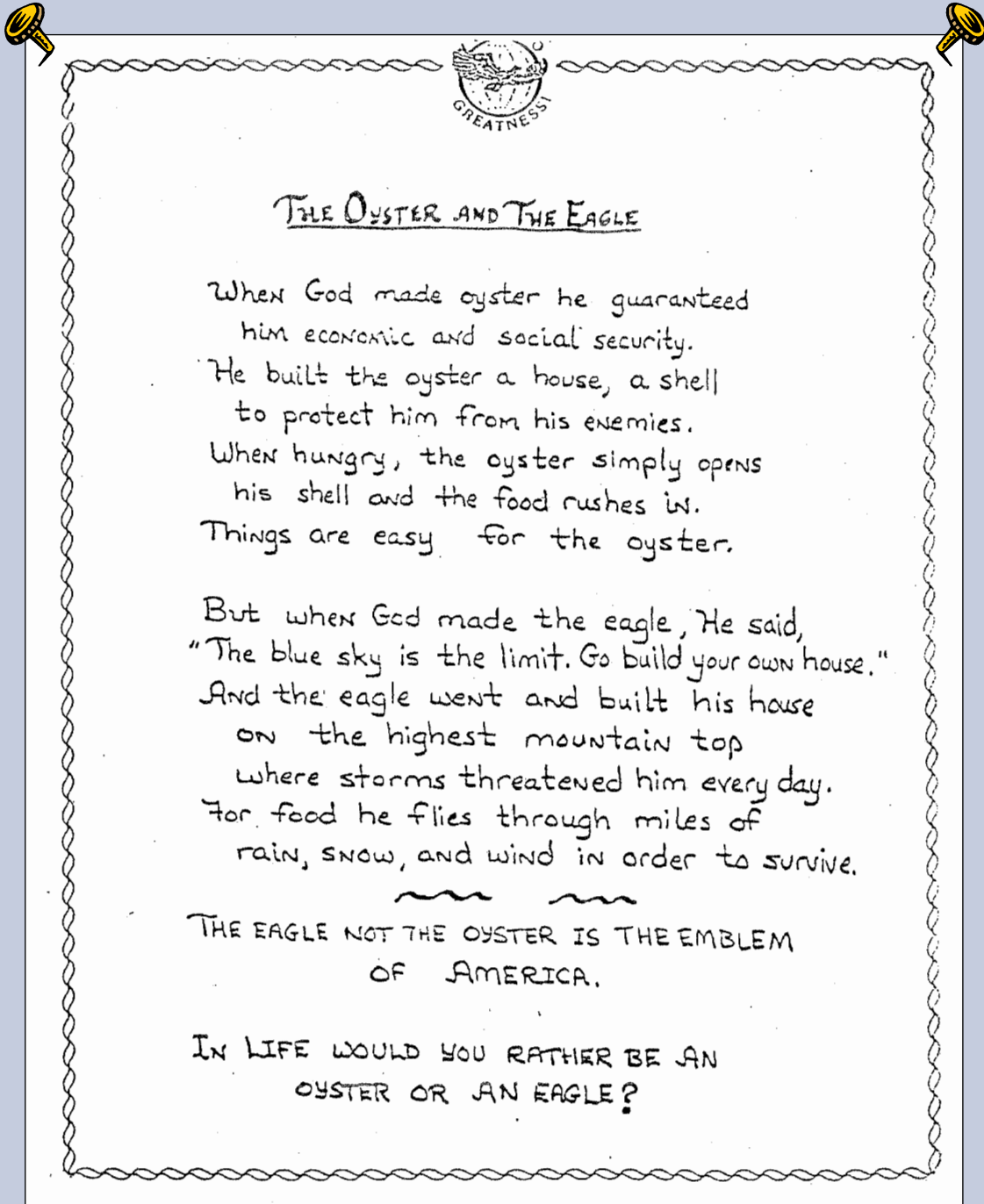
There were times when I disappointed him over foolish deeds I'd done, but he'd comfort me and talk to me like I was his very own son.

His teachings of the bible on Sundays still echo in my mind. His words of wisdom and encouragement will be in my heart for the rest of time.

Now he's in Heaven with the Lord he served to the end. Behind he left a piece of his heart with every cowboy that ever called him Friend.

By Ernie Roberts

Remember this handout....



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE 
MARTIN



**Join us
on Facebook
– UTM Rodeo**

Follow the rodeo team at

www.utmsports.com

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status. In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (The Clery Act), UTM's annual security report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on or around the campus and UTM's emergency response and evacuation procedures. You can view the report at <http://www.utm.edu/departments/finadmin/publicsafety/annual-report.php> or you may obtain a paper copy of the report by contacting the Office of Public Safety, 215 Hurt Street, Martin, TN 38238 or calling (731) 881-7777. Data on intercollegiate athletics program participation rates and financial support may be found at http://www.utm.edu/webshare/consumer_docs/09-10%20DOE-EADA%20Report.pdf and printed copies may be obtained through the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, 1022 Elam Center, Martin, TN 38238 or by calling (731) 881-7660.

E05-4105-00-006-12