



## **Richard Winters Bio**

As other grade school boys dreamed of being firemen, astronauts, or race car drivers, this years equitarian recipient thought of nothing other than being a cowboy. Not the most convenient dream considering he lived in town with parents who had no ties whatsoever to the equine community.

During those early years this boy wore out more than a few bicycles peddling seven miles to a stable across town where he was a self confessed “stable brat.” Opportunities to be involved with horses were few and far between but they did come. Helping clean stalls, learning to drive the single horse feed wagon, and helping to saddle the dude string, little by little desire was intersecting with experience.

Four summers as a teenager wrangling dude horses in the mountains added to this experience. Then the opportunity to work for the late great bridle horse trainer, Troy Henry, of Clovis, California. This was the young mans first introduction to higher levels of horsemanship. Troy introduced the idea that horsemanship was only about 10% mechanics and 90% psychology. It was there that this high school kid had the privilege of riding some true bridle horses. Though he couldn’t duplicate it, he knew there was a feel with horses that could be obtained.

A 9 month Farrier program gave the young man skills that financed most of the obligations a 17 year old boy could accrue.

Graduating from High School a year early he was college bound. Not necessarily for the scholastic opportunities. Rather, Hartnell College, in Salinas California, had one of the most outstanding varsity rodeo program in the country. Two years of roping calves and riding saddle bronc horses was a lot of fun, however it was self-evident that there wasn’t much future in it.

It was in Salinas that he met the girl who would become the cornerstone of his success. This pretty strawberry blond has spent 23 years raising their children, running their business, and being the #1 supporter of this ongoing adventure.

Over the years, shoeing clients recognized the horse handling skills of this young farrier and training opportunities began to present themselves with more frequency.

In the late 80’s and early 90’s horsemanship clinics were gaining in popularity.

This is where our recipient has shined. A strong horsemanship foundation balanced with unparalleled people skills has been the perfect mixture for the outstanding clinician he is today.

Never satisfied where he is on the journey, this gentleman continues to hone his skills as an avid competitor with the National Reined Cow Horse Association with world championship titles to his credit. He is also an A rated Judge and a trainer and coach to world champion non-pro riders as well.

It's been said "Find a vocation you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life!" Richard Winters is living his boyhood dream and we honor him here tonight.