

Introducing 2012 Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductee...

C.M. Coffee (1921 - ...)

C.M. Coffee was born and raised on a ranch near Miami, Texas in 1921. At an early age he started working for neighboring ranches after school and on weekends, in addition to working on his family's place. During this time C.M. also started competing in local rodeos. He competed in all events except for bull riding. He was a natural horseman, but it didn't take C.M. long to realize he "didn't know how to properly sit on a bull." As he grew, so did his rodeo circle. C.M. won many saddle bronc, roping, dogging and all-around titles throughout the entire panhandle area of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Upon graduation from high school he was drafted into to the Army Air Corp. It was during his military service when he first came to Montana. He was sent to Missoula and received training in flight, parachuting and related areas. However, since the Japanese surrendered during this time, C.M. was sent to be a tail gunner on a B52 in the Army's mop up operations in the Pacific Theater. He was eventually stationed in the Philippines, but traveled throughout the U.S. and the Pacific. Upon honorable discharge from the Army, C.M. returned to the panhandle of Texas and returned to rodeo. He was rehired to work on a ranch that he had worked on in high school. Not long after his return, the ranch owner asked C.M. if he would like to go to Montana and run a new ranch the owner had recently acquired. C.M. took the opportunity and headed north. The ranch was in the Pine Hills just southeast of Miles City. C.M. worked hard and saved his money. Over time, C.M. bought half of the ranch and became partners with the owner's son. Eventually, the son sold his interest in the ranch to C.M. Years later, C.M. would sell this ranch and buy a cattle & sheep operation at Sumatra.

Through the decades C.M. has owned, operated and leased ranches across Custer, Rosebud and Prairie Counties. Also during this time, C.M. continued to rodeo throughout the region. He successfully competed in many of the areas top venues, including Calgary, the Wolf Point Stampede, and Cheyenne Frontier Days. C.M. is a true cowboys' cowboy. He loves every aspect of ranching and could do it all – roping, riding, doctoring cattle, knowing the economics, etc. He understands livestock like very few do.

After over 60 years of Montana Cowboying, C.M. still is involved in the family ranching operation he started so long ago. C.M. lives in Miles City with his wife Virginia. He has two children and two grandchildren.