

Len Monical

On the formation of the B.C.C.H.A. in 1973, one of the inaugural directors was Len Monical.

He has served this Association and the sport of cutting with honour and selflessness in many capacities - - as President of the B.C.C.H.A. in 1976 and 1977, as a Director and Committee Chairman of the B.C. and Canadian Associations on countless occasions, as a judge, a teacher, a trainer, a competitor, a sponsor, a coach and supporter to our youth in cutting, and as an artist, we like to call one of "our own".

He has influenced cutting and our Association in many ways, but there are two ways which are particularly noteworthy – the contribution of his art to our sport bears particular recognition in that he has created and co-sponsored sculptures for the BC Year End Awards, the beautiful "76 ½" Open and Non-Pro sculptures that are presented by the Canadian Cutting Horse Association each year to this day, and awards for the B.C. Futurity. In 1991 he created and co-sponsored two very special awards – the Williams Lake Non-Pro Award honoring the Carson Family's contribution to cutting and the Peppy San Memorial Award which replaced "76 ½" as the CCHA Open & Non-Pro Awards.

The second area of accomplishment is Len's success in the cutting arena. From his early days aboard "Rocky's Champ". to his recent horses, he has demonstrated "excellence" and "class" as a competitor. He trained and showed "Peppy Sammy" to the Open Championship of the Canadian Cutting Horse Futurity in 1986. Len and "Rockerfeller" made the "CCHA High Point Horse" in 1975 and won the BCCHA Open in 1979, 1982 and 1983. From 1973 – 1983 inclusive, Len placed in the CCHA and/or BCCHA Top Ten.

If there was a horse and rider who were synonymous as a "team" in cutting, it was "Len Monical and Rockerfeller". Who could forget the sight of this big, tough, talented gelding challenging a cow, with a rider who instinctively knew when "to ask" and when to let him "do his thing".

What a sight they were, and what an honor it is to be a part of inducting Len Monical into our BC Hall of Fame" – 1993. (taken from BCCHA Hall of Fame Inductees).

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Following article taken from the 100 Mile Free Press, April 28. 2016

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The BC Cowboy Heritage Society picked Len Monical of 108 Mile Ranch as the 2016 recipient of the Joe Martin Memorial Award for the Preservation of Cowboy Heritage in BC.

The Award was presented to Len at the 20th Annual Kamloops Cowboy Festival on March 19 during the Saturday evening feature show at the Calvary Community Church. As the 2016 recipient, Len undoubtedly fits the requirements of this award as he is both a cowboy and an artist. It is one of his bronzes that is used as the trophy for the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Len was born in Oregon in 1939 and has never stopped living the cowboy way of life...riding, training working dogs, cutting horses, and sharing that knowledge with the public through his art... most notably with his bronzes.

In 1962, Len's family bought 30,000 acres now known as the 105 Mile Ranch. Len ranched/cowboyed with his father and brothers, Robert and Wendell, until the ranch was sold to Block Brothers in the 1970's. He continued his work with horses, including training cutting horses which have earned their way into the Canadian Cutting Horse Hall of Fame. He still spends time helping his neighbors and family whenever they need help with cattle work.

In the 1980's, Len started with sculpture. He spent some time in Florida learning methods from respected painter and sculptor Eugene Shortridge. Len says he likes a challenge, and likes learning something new, so before long he had perfected his technique and was commissioned to create several cast bronze trophies for equine events.

To name just a couple of the many pieces: Len has sculpted the trophy for the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame, made many of the awards for the BC Country Music Association, and even did one for British Royalty – a cowboy and his cutting horse in action, that was presented to Prince Philip in 1983. Len's beautiful sculpture (76 ½") is still presented to the CCHA's Open and Non-Pro Champions, at the end of every competitive year.

Len figures he has made about 50 pieces over the years, all of which show action. "If you can't capture the action, all you have is a statue".

His bronze work includes horses, cowboys, rodeo, working dogs, ranch life and wildlife.

The BC Cowboy Heritage Society is proud to add the name Len Monical to the list of recipients for the Annual Joe Martin Memorial Award for the Preservation of Cowboy Heritage in BC.