

Livestock Person of the Year – 2008

TYKE MINETTI

Tyke Minetti has been in the horse and cattle business all of his life. He worked on the family ranch while still attending school in Guadalupe. Literarily the day after his graduation from Santa Maria High School in 1960, he started work on the ranch full time. Over the years, he has focused on raising beef that tastes good and stayed away from trying to breed for size. While the cattle operation was the main business focus, Tyke became quite a successful horseman.

Tyke developed his western horsemanship actively showing horses starting back in 1966. He showed primarily at local show around Santa Maria, Santa Ynez and Santa Barbara. Over the years, he became a member of the Santa Barbara County Quarter Horse Association, American Quarter Horse Association and the National Reined Cow Horse Association. Tyke began to realize that the money in showing horses came if you could do well or win at the show and sell the horse. He began showing in the Snaffle Bit Futurity, hosted by the NRCHA and was then actively breeding, raising, training, showing and selling his horses. Many of his horses that he raised, trained and sold went on to win big under the care of their new trainers/owners.

Tyke also dedicated a good portion of this life to the Fiesta in Santa Barbara. Over the years in his participation there, he won twelve saddles – one of the most prestigious prizes. While competing in the amateur division, Tyke won Reserve Champion at the Snaffle Bit in 1972 amongst both professional and amateurs and in 1974 he was the Non-Pro World Champion. He has been featured in several trade magazines including a major write-up in “Western Horseman”. Tyke remained active in showmanship for more than twenty years.

Tyke still raises horses today, but primarily for personal use. He oversees both his personal cattle ranch and the family operation, which are on opposite ends of the valley. Tyke and his wife, Sheryl have two children and his dedication to the livestock operation inspired them while growing up. Both of them showed steers bred and raised on the Minetti Ranch: Tom won Grand Champion, Michelle won Local Bred Champion, and between them over the years, twelve of thirteen of the steers they showed graded “Choice” and 2 steers placed in the carcass contest. This was a reflection of the quality of beef raised on the family ranch.

In addition to his memberships in the various horse associations, Tyke is a member of the Cattlemen’s Association, Santa Barbara County Range Improvement, Elk’s Lodge #1538 and still supports 4H, FFA and the Santa Maria Elk’s Rodeo. Tyke is one of the most respected stockmen in the area and, although a man of few words, when Tyke speaks, those who aspire to become good horsemen or cattlemen listen.