

Rudy Burns

“ The Crazy Cajun “

The “Crazy Cajun” Rudy Burns will serve as barrel man at this year’s Longview PRCA Rodeo. Since he began his professional career as a clown in 1976, Rudy has kept rodeo fans laughing with his unique personality. Known as one of the best, he has been awarded the highest honor in his profession by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) – the prestigious title of barrel man of the year. Rudy was given this honor in 1995 and 2000 and was runner-up in 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2010.

In 1996, Rudy was chosen to work all 10 performances at the National Finals Rodeo (NFR) in Las Vegas. His outstanding work continued to bring him acclaim. He was voted five times to be the barrel man in the Bullfight World Championship at the NFR.

Mr. Burns began his rodeo career on top of a bull instead of in front of one. He began riding bulls at a small Louisiana rodeo. He joined the Louisiana Rodeo Association and the Tri-State Rodeo Association (Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama), winning the rookie bull rider award of the year in 1971.

Then one day a bullfighter failed to appear at a rodeo and Rudy volunteered to take the bullfighter’s place. He liked it so well, he hung up his spurs and painted his face.

Mr. Burns travels to rodeos 10 months a year with his wife Betty Jane who, besides being the brunt of many of his jokes, assists with the novelty sales department. When not staring down a 2,000 lb. bull, Rudy and Betty Jane reside in Smithdale, Miss.