

HISTORY OF THE RANCH

HEAD AND HEEL RANCH STARTED LIFE AS "THE OLD HANEY PLACE", ORIGINALLY LOCATED ON 140 ACRES ON THE NORTH SIDE OF RODEO DRIVE, IT WAS AN ORANGE GROVE THAT FROZE OUT IN 1989. IT WAS THEN CONVERTED TO PASTURELAND WITH A CREEK DIVIDING IT FROM EAST TO WEST.

THE THEN-OWNER, A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN, OWNED A DRY DOCK FACILITY IN PORT TAMPA AND WAS A NEW ORLEANS NATIVE. HE ASKED HIS PARENTS TO COME LIVE IN FLORIDA IN THE MAIN HOUSE. THE HANEY PLACE STARTED DEVELOPING AND BECAME A HOME TO MANY ANIMALS. THE 12' HIGH PENS, LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE RANCH, WERE HOME TO ELK AND WHITE TAIL DEER AT VARIOUS TIMES. THE BREEDING PEN, NOW THE HAY BARN, WAS ALSO AN ACTIVE PLACE DURING THE BREEDING SEASON. COWS AND HORSES SOON FOLLOWED AS THE ROPING PRESENCE BEGAN.

MR. HANEY HAD ANOTHER IDEA. HE WANTED TO BUILD A WILD WEST TOWN LIKE "SIX-GUN TERRITORY" IN Ocala. HE STARTED BUILDING THE BUNKHOUSE AND APARTMENT, BUT THE IDEA OF THE WILD WEST TOWN DIMMED AND WAS REPLACED WITH THAT OF A RODEO SCHOOL. THE ARENA WAS BUILT, CATTLE ACQUIRED, AND THEN SCHOOL WAS ON. AT THE TIME, THE CURRENT WORLD CHAMPION, TOM FERGUSON, WAS HIRED TO COME AND TEACH THE LOCAL KIDS THE THEORY AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF RODEO EVENTS WHEN HE WASN'T ON THE ROAD. THE BUNKHOUSE, ALONG WITH THE BROOKSVILLE RODEO, WAS FONDLY REMEMBERED BY MANY OF THE GREATS WHO CAME TO COMPETE AND STAYED OVER.

AS TIME PASSED, PARENTS PASSED, INTEREST FADED IN THE ENDEAVOR, KIDS GREW UP, AND SOME FINANCIAL CONDITIONS PLUNGED "THE HANEY PLACE" INTO NEGLECT. IT SAT, FOR ALL PRACTICABLE PURPOSES, ABANDONED FOR SIX YEARS.

THAT'S WHERE WE CAME INTO THE PICTURE. THE STORY OF HOW WE WERE BLESSED TO BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THIS PROPERTY IS A "ONCE IN A LIFETIME, SHOT IN THE DARK" KINDA STORY AND IS BEST TOLD OVER A CAMPFIRE. NONETHELESS, WE ARE HERE.

HEAD AND HEEL RANCH WAS BORN IN LARGO, FL, BUT MOVED TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION IN BROOKSVILLE IN 1996. THE NAME "HEAD AND HEEL" REFERS TO THE RODEO EVENT OF TEAM ROPING. OUR FAMILY HAS PARTICIPATED IN TEAM ROPING, BARREL RACING, AND GOAT TYING. CURRENTLY, OUR ADULT CHILDREN AND GRANDKIDS COMPETE IN NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RODEO-TIMED EVENTS. (AND WIN)

THE RANCH LOOKED DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT DOES NOW BACK IN 1996. OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE ADDED THE PAVILION, ENCLOSED BELOW THE BUNKHOUSE, AND CREATED A WILD WEST SALOON FOR OCCASIONAL WEDDINGS OR EVENTS. HHR HAS HOSTED NBHA BARREL RACES, TEAM ROPING, BEGINNER RODEO CLINICS, PROFESSIONAL BARREL CLINICS, GOAT TYING CLINICS, CATTLE HANDLING CLINICS, AND SEVERAL "FAMOUS HALLOWEEN PARTIES." IT HAS ALSO BEEN THE HOME OF MISSISSIPPI STATE NBHA 22' OUR DAUGHTER JOY BRUNSON.

OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE FIXED UP, ADDED TO, AND, MOST OF ALL, ENJOYED OUR RANCH. IT'S TIME TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.