

Meet Harry Rowell – The Rodeo King of the West

Harry Rowell, an English immigrant with a love for the American West, became one of the most influential rodeo stock contractors in the country. After arriving in California, he settled in the canyons of Castro Valley and began building a legacy that would shape the region’s identity for generations.

“He didn’t just raise livestock—he raised the bar for rodeo in the West.”

Rowell Ranch: From Canyon Hideout to Rodeo Grounds

In 1921, Rowell hosted his first rodeo in the scenic hills east of Castro Valley. By 1925, he had purchased the land and established what became known as **Rowell Ranch**. The area had a colorful past—local lore claims it once served as a hideout for the infamous bandit **Joaquin Murrieta** in the 1850s.

Rowell’s ranch quickly became a hub for rodeo culture. He bred and trained livestock for events across the West and became the stock provider and arena director for the **first Grand National Rodeo** at the Cow Palace in 1941.

A Tradition That Lives On

After Harry’s passing, his widow **Maggie Rowell** ensured the legacy would continue. In 1978, she sold the land to the **Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (H.A.R.D.)**, preserving it for public use and community celebration.

Today, the **Rowell Ranch Rodeo** is a cherished annual event that brings together families, cowboys, and history lovers to celebrate Castro Valley’s Western roots.

“Where the West still rides!”



Timeline of the Rowell Legacy

Year	Event
1921	Harry Rowell hosts his first rodeo in Castro Valley
1925	Rowell purchases the land and establishes Rowell Ranch
1941	Provides livestock and directs the first Grand National Rodeo at the Cow Palace
1978	Maggie Rowell sells the ranch to H.A.R.D., preserving it for public use

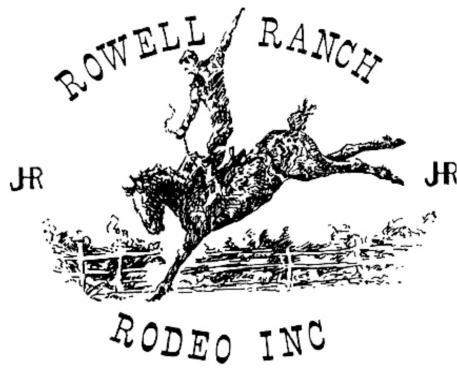
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MAGGIE AND HARRY ROWELL



ELIZABETH ROWELL



HARRY ROWELL

