

Santa Rosa Rodeo

For more than 70 years, the Santa Rosa Roundup has brought the excitement of rodeo to fans.

It was in 1945 that E. Paul Waggoner decided that Vernon needed to spotlight the cowboys. By then, rodeo was a popular sport as well as a big business. The Rodeo Cowboy Association had been founded to police the sport and give it respectability. The RCA also set up a fair and accurate way to determine national championships in the sport.

Waggoner dreamed of presenting an annual rodeo and quarter horse show that would dazzle the spectators. At the time, however, World War II was still being fought, so Waggoner held his plans in abeyance.

In 1946, Waggoner began construction of the rodeo plant, considered one of the finest ever built. Plans of rodeo grounds throughout the United States were studied to incorporate the most modern and complete features of the time.

The first performance was held May 29-June 2, 1946 with two afternoon and four

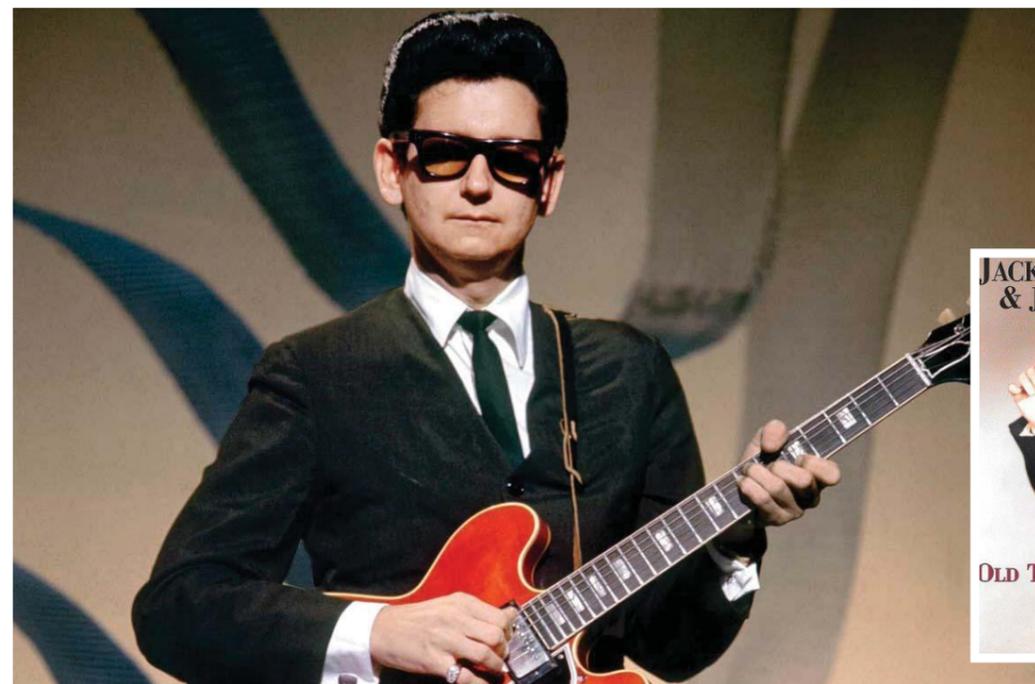
evening performances attended by some 50,000. The event was held in conjunction with a homecoming for the men and women of World War II and was dedicated to their honor.

The Santa Rosa Roundup is now a premier event on the rodeo circuit. A big four-day event gets underway on Wednesday with a massive parade through downtown Vernon followed by the first night's performance in the rodeo arena. The rodeo continues through Saturday night with a full schedule of events, including bronc riding, bareback riding, calf roping, team roping, barrel racing and bull riding.

Kenneth Dockery took over the rodeo arena in 2008, purchasing it from Grady Kent Stowe and John Mikkelsen, who had owned the grounds since 1974. The grounds were sold to the Palomino Club in 2016. The arena is located just south of Vernon and includes a covered seating area to protect rodeo spectators from the weather with a seating capacity of 3,500 general admission seats.



The Local Legends of Entertainment



Vernon has been home to at least two legends in the world of music. Jazz great Jack Teagarden and rock and roll legend Roy Orbison were both born in Vernon.

JAZZ GREAT

A museum to honor jazz great Jack Teagarden is currently in progress in downtown Vernon. The museum will be located in the former Goodyear Building on Wilbarger Street.

Teagarden was born Weldon Leo Teagarden in Vernon on Aug. 20, 1905, to Charles and Helen Teagarden. His father was an oil worker and his mother a piano teacher and church organist. All four Teagarden children became musicians. Teagarden's father was an amateur brass band trumpeter and started young Jack playing the baritone horn. By the age of 10, Teagarden had switched to playing trombone. His mother gave him piano lessons as well. The trombone, however, would become his trademark. He made his first professional appearance playing duet with his mother at the local movie house in Vernon and later played in Chappell, Neb., where the family moved after the death of Jack's father when Jack was 13.

At age 16, he played with a quartet group at the Horn Palace Inn in San Antonio led by drummer Cotton Bailey who gave him the nickname, "Jack." In the late 1920's, his career soared when he joined the Ben Pollack Orchestra while beginning a prolific recording career, singing with notable band

leaders and sidemen as Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Bix Beiderbecke, Red Nichols, Jimmy McPartland, Mezz Mezzrow, Glenn Miller and Eddie Condon. He was featured on most of the major recording companies including RCA Victor, Columbia, Decca, Capitol and MGM discs. Among his most famous recordings were "The Sheik of Araby," "Stars Fell on Alabama" and "Basin Street Blues." Teagarden had a fledgling movie career with several appearances in "The Birth of the Blues," "The Glass Wall" and "Jazz on a Summer's Day".

Teagarden joined the Paul Whiteman band in 1933, and Louis Armstrong's All-Stars. Teagarden later left Armstrong and formed the Jack Teagarden All Stars Dixieland band in 1951. He died in 1963 and was inducted posthumously into the Big Band and Jazz Hall of Fame in 1985.

ROCK 'N ROLL LEGEND

Born Roy Kelton Orbison on April 23, 1936 in Vernon, Roy Orbison changed the sound of rock and roll music with his distinctive voice. His career spanned over four decades and included such hits as "Only The Lonely," "In Dreams," "Oh, Pretty Woman," "Crying," "Blue Bayou," "Candy Man," "Uptown," "Leah," and countless others, many of which are still played and enjoyed today.

Orbison's mother, Nadine, was a nurse, and his father, Orbie Lee, an oil field worker who gave him his first guitar. The first song Roy learned to play was the 1939 standard, "You Are My Sunshine," written by

former Louisiana governor Jimmie Davis.

By 1944, Roy had written his first song, "A Vow of Love," in front of his grandmother's house in Vernon. Orbison performed on KVWC Radio in 1945 after winning a contest. In 1946, the Orbisons moved to the West Texas oil town of Wink, where, at the age of 13, Orbison formed his first band, "The Wink Westerners." He graduated from Wink High School in June 1954 and, before long the Wink Westerners were regulars on local television and radio programs.

Though he initially passed on "The Teen Kings," Phillips signed Roy Orbison to Sun Records after hearing Orbison and the Kings' version of the Clover's "Trying To Get To You" and "Ooby Dooby," a single they'd recorded at Norman Petty's studio in Clovis, N.M. Roy Orbison and the Teen Kings re-recorded "Ooby Dooby" for Sun Records on March 27, 1956, and the single peaked at #59 on the Billboard Pop Singles chart in June 1956, giving Orbison his first commercial success. Orbison's string of hits made him one of the most popular rock 'n roll singers of the time.

Orbison performed his final concert in Highland Heights, Ohio in late 1988. He died of a heart attack on Dec. 6, 1988 in Nashville.

A large colorful sign at the site of Christ the King Hospital, where Orbison was born, was dedicated on his birthday in April 2013, and a birthday celebration is held each year at the site to honor the famed rock 'n roll legend.