



If you knew Vernon West, you know that he had a heart full of love and a head full of roping knowledge. In particular, he loved to see any and all youth involved in some form or fashion. He never believed one had to be the next world's champion roper. He was happy to just see a child, or adult, share his love for horses and the sport of rodeo. If one showed an interest, Vernon would go above and beyond to see that dream fulfilled. And no matter what, Vernon West always made that individual feel like a champion!

Though there were many over the years, some of Vernon's closest friends were the likes of Jim Bob Altizer, Bud Smith, Ray Wharton, and Mack Yates. A person could travel to any of the major roping competitions anywhere and find this group of men in their conglomerate known simply as: "West & Company". All the ropers made a point to come by and say their "hellos" and shake hands with these great men. And just the same, West & Company went out of their way to acknowledge the great ropers and horses, cattle and everyone and everything that played a role in making what they loved: a good roping.

In 2006 we had a vision: West & Company would keep on helping kids! We held our first annual roping, a team roping, in Sonora, Texas. In 2011 we added a Jr. Roping for kids 19 & under since helping kids is what these men were about. Since 2006, the Vernon West Memorial Scholarship Fund has awarded over \$40,000 to graduating high school seniors who are involved in rodeo or some type of agricultural field.