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R. B. Warren Arena Dedication

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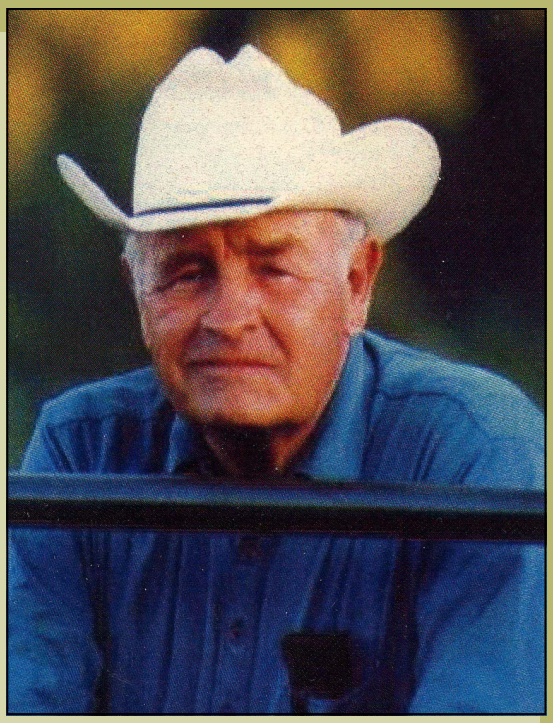
R. B. Warren Arena

Dedication



Richard B. "R. B." Warren

University of Nebraska

Animal Science

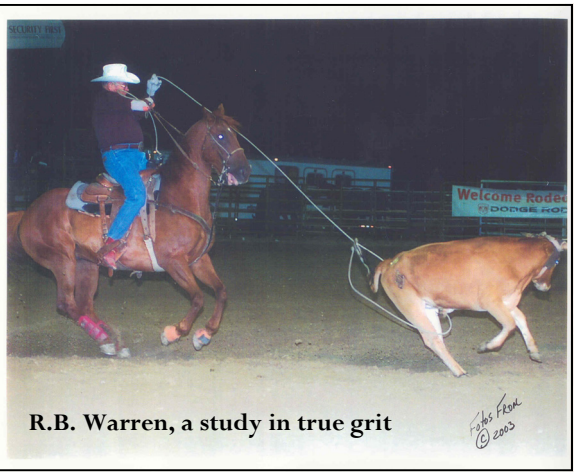
September 8, 2006

Richard B. Warren

Coach, Teacher, Leader, and Horseman

1925 – 2003

Richard "R.B." Warren was a member of the Animal Science Department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, from 1956 to 1990. A Kansas native, R.B. graduated with a B.S. degree in Agriculture from Kansas State University and married Doris Kite in 1948. He completed an M.S. degree in Animal Breeding from Oklahoma State University in 1950 and served on the Animal Science faculty at Michigan State University for six years before coming to Nebraska. R.B. Warren enthusiastically developed young leaders for the animal industry through motivation, quality learning, skill development and personal mentoring. His legacy included one of the finest youth horse extension programs in the U.S. and development of the R.B. Warren Scholarship, the Nebraska 4-H Horse Fund, and other endowments to support horse programs, livestock judging, and student scholarships. His leadership and dedication are rightfully memorialized in naming the UNL Animal Science arena the "R.B. Warren Arena."



R.B. Warren, a study in true grit

R.B. Warren Arena Dedication

September 8, 2006

Program

Welcome.. . . . . Don Beermann
Animal Science Department Head

Introductions . . . . . The Warren Family
Doris Warren
Robert Warren
Lisa Warren
Gale Reininger
Mark Warren
Reid Warren

Program . . . . . Comments by family, alumni and friends

Presentation of 1st R. B. Warren Scholarship. . .
Bryan Reiling
Associate Professor & Livestock Judging Team Faculty Supervisor

Unveiling of Plaque . . . . . Doris Warren

"R.B. was a tough taskmaster–fair, focused, demanding, scrupulously honest, highly ethical, insightful, and in many ways, visionary in his approach as a coach. He never asked more of his students than he was willing to give himself. No student came away from working with him without an intense loyalty to him and a belief that R.B. had been a great positive influence in their life and development."

- Abe Aberle

Animal Sciences into the 21st Century

The face of the Animal Science Department at the University of Nebraska has changed considerably from the time it was established in 1898, when the Animal Husbandry staff was housed in two rooms in Agriculture Hall. The Livestock Judging Pavilion (or Horse Barn as it was known) was constructed in the early 1900s. Around the ring were stalls where the livestock were kept, and upstairs were classrooms and rooms where students, who were paid to take care of the livestock, lived. The bleachers on the south side of the arena were installed by students. When the Judging Pavilion was demolished in 2000, the building had run its course and held only the echos of a judge's reasons or the excited cries of a winning livestock exhibitor. At the September 8, 2000, Block & Bridle Club Steak Fry and last salute to the old building, R.B. and former students reminisced. "This old pile of red bricks would have been nothing if it wouldn't have been for the great students who occupied it," said R.B. Warren. He recalled the Pavilion's greater days and said he admired the students who came to the University and that they made his time worthwhile. "I came to Nebraska because of the heritage and the good students," R.B. said. "I hate to see the place torn down, but it's in the same shape I'm in," said Lyle Roberts (class of 1940) who lived in the Horse Barn for two years. "It was a great experience. One reason I can get up here and talk is from my experience here," said Roger Bell (1965 Judging Team). The students not only lived in the Pavilion, they did the livestock chores, as well as painting, repairs and other janitorial duties. They also got the Judging Pavilion ready before and after events. In addition to the many 4-H, FFA, and other livestock shows held in the Pavilion, many Nebraska farmers were given an opportunity to see the University's first-hand results of the cattle feeding experiments during Cattle Feeders Day. The event, started in 1911, had 4,500 attendees its second year. Visitors viewed the cattle from hay racks and wagons that lined the feedlot east of the Pavilion. It was discontinued in 1963 in favor of smaller meetings across the state. In 1935, a similar event was held, the annual Hog Feeders day or Rooters Day.

The new Animal Sciences Complex construction of approximately 186,000 square feet added a covered livestock unit with an arena. Although the facility is modern and state-of-the-art, there are still students who do the same kinds of chores and reside in the facility. In years to come when they return to campus, they will also reminisce about their college years and the fun times they had in the "R. B. Warren Arena." Of all the accolades that have been bestowed on R.B., we think he would be proud to have his name associated with a facility that has the smell of livestock, the sounds of a horse's whinny, and the crunch of sand under one's feet.

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