

## Clifford Many Guns

Clifford Patrick Many Guns, was born on February 6, 1937 to Tom and Josette Many Guns, in little Chicago in a little log cabin on the Siksika Nation. Clifford loved to rodeo and he spearheaded rodeo activities on the Siksika Nation, which was one of the highlights of his life. Clifford promoted and organized both the amateur and professional rodeo in Indian country for 43 years. Clifford did not only organize rodeos he was also a participant in bare-back riding, steer decorating, calf roping, wild horse racing, wild cow milking, and tried his hand at the dangerous arts of bull riding. Clifford also was a boxer and coached and managed other boxers. He met famous boxers like Muhammed Ali and George Culvalo. Clifford also coached hockey teams such as, the Blackfoot Buffalos and the Blackfoot Braves.

By the time Clifford reached the age of twenty, he began attending the amateur rodeo circuit of Alberta. He began following the footsteps of noted Siksika cowboys – Albert One Dick Brass, Mark Wolfleg Sr., Ed Yellow Old Woman, Adrien Stimson Sr., and the Solway boys Reil, John, and Adam. He became the youngest member to join the Bow Valley Roping Club, founded by professional cowboys Wood Downey, Roy Downey, and Mark Wolfleg Sr. When Clifford was at the age of 22 years old, he acquired his permit card with the C.P.A (Cowboys Protective association) this association later became known as C.R.C.A (Canadian rodeo cowboy association), and now C.P.R.A (Canadian professional rodeo association).

While growing up on his parent's farm his father Thomas Many Guns was one of the last groups of rough and tumble ranch cowboys, from the late 1900s. His mother Jossete formerly from the Kainai reserve. His

father and mother taught him the life and stories of the Blackfoot people before the Europeans came. Clifford hardly ever missed the annual Blackfoot Sundance, where the people would visit, play, laugh, tell stories, and enjoyed the ceremonies. He liked doing late night serenades with other riders starting off with a big wide circle, with each round, the circle would get smaller until they reached the camps just before sunrise.

Clifford married Rosaline Wells, from the Kainai reserve, and they lived together for 51 years on their ranch located five miles south of Gleichen, Alberta. They had six children and raised one granddaughter Candace. The eldest one is Clifford Wells, works at the Kainai School and trains horses, and steer wrestles in the Senior Pro Rodeo Association. His second oldest son is Thomas Many Guns (deceased), he was a professional bull rider and steer wrestler, he had retired from rodeo competition but owned and operated the Okan Guest Ranch. Clifford had left an indelible impact on his eldest daughter Eulalia Running Rabbit, through her service to her people and community through various helping capacities. Eulalia, is presently working at Crowfoot School as a Family Liaison. Lavina Many Guns acquired her Master Of Arts Degree in Leadership Administration and teaches Siksika language and culture at the Siksika Nation high school. Second youngest is Wayne Many Guns (deceased), who is an accomplished professional bull rider and all-round athlete. He took the Golden Boy Title in boxing in Arizona N.M. The youngest of the family is Jeanette (Jinks) Many Guns who is an incredible cowgirl. Twice she made it into the National Finals in Soboba, California and Billings, Montana U.S A. in the breakaway roping.

Clifford was very proud of his reserve and his Siksika people. Serving the Siksika nation for 18 years on Chief and Council, as well as his many accomplishments in rodeos and other sports will be remembered by the Siksika people and other cowboys in Canada and the United States. His love of rodeo was one of the highlights of his life especially spearheading the spirit of rodeo on the Siksika Nation and his hopes and dreams were to make sure that rodeo continues as a tradition for future generations of Siksika for cowboys and cowgirls. His house is a museum with rodeo and cowboy memorabilia and had that little Siksika Nation county atmosphere.

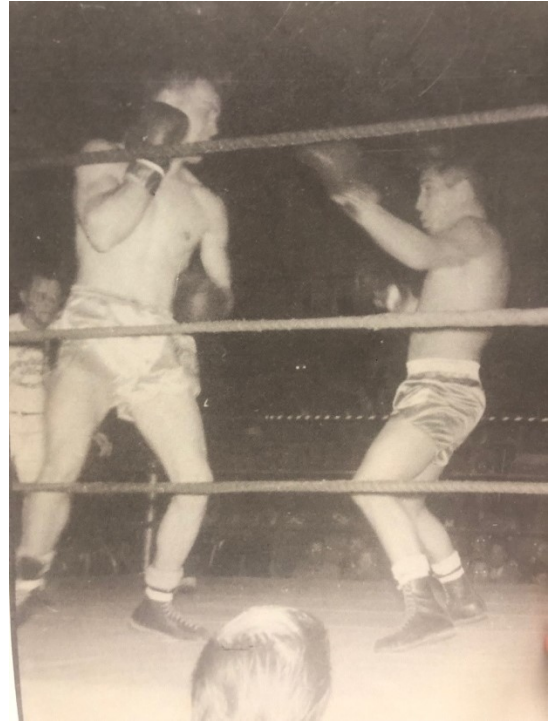
I was told by our school elder respectable Ruth ScalpLock that she had the privilege to know and work with Mr. Many Guns in Chief and Council, I was very interested to get more information about Mr. Many Guns. Clifford was humorous, knowledgeable and very wise. During his tenure with Ruth Scalp – Lock on Chief and Council he shared so much information that had to do with Siksika history. He had many capabilities as a natural leader. He was supported by his late wife and his children for 18 years. Ruth had said that her first term as a Council member that she learned so much from the late Clifford. She told me that “I will never forget that one day Clifford got after me in a professional manner to listen and it is rude to be speaking when a leader is sharing important information for all of us to learn, and that leadership is very sacred”. It is a big responsibility to represent our people. Clifford supported the prevention of Family / Domestic Violence. He showed great interest in the inception of KOMATI centre. He certainly felt the importance of healing our community especially the youth and the future generations. We were very fortunate to have his support and the importance of ideas that came from a male perspective political, social, and economic information that was shared at different times. He was good at negotiating, always admired, had

charisma, and how he presented himself with his valuable information. Ruth also said that one of the highlights I can clearly remember was when he was the Chief of Police and escorted Prince Charles of Wales on horseback when the prince visited Blackfoot Crossing during Treaty 7 commemoration in 1977. It was quite an honor to experience and to see the prince and the entourage. It was interesting to listen to elder Ruth tell me about my hero.

In conclusion from the information I gathered about my hero, Clifford Patrick Many Guns, and how he encouraged and focused on the youth, it has inspired me because he maintained a good relationship with the people, athletes and champions of Siksika Nation, and surrounding areas. I am also inspired by the way he helped people because he shared valuable ideas so they can establish themselves well within their chosen careers and fields. From the information that I have gathered I will respect and hope to follow in his footsteps and continue with my education and graduate from High School and onto university. My dream will be that I become a professional Bull Rider someday and I will dedicate my first winning to my Hero I will tip my hat off to my hero. I am glad that I chose the late Mr. Many Guns as my hero. I will end off by saying Clifford, worked hard at what he had accomplished in his life time. And the greatest accomplishment was to know that his children and grandchildren are following in his footsteps in life. When interviewing Clifford's daughter Eulalia she said that "my dad was a true Blackfoot-Canadian citizen. He was there for the Blackfoot people and he believed in his people. History will not forget him."

Pictures





## References

### Interviews:

Eulalia Running Rabbit – April, 2018

Jeanette Many Guns - April 16, 2018 (also provided pictures)

Ruth Scalplock – April 23, 2018

### Websites:

Clifford Many Guns Obituary

<https://obitree.com/obituary/ca/alberta/calgary/evan-j-strong-funeral-services/clifford-many-guns/122049/>