

Rocky Ray Vondra
September 11, 1954 - December 25, 2025



Rocky Ray Vondra was born in Lusk, on September 11, 1954, to Vern and Orese (Miller) Vondra. Rocky passed away peacefully at the age of 71 at his home in Brownsboro, Texas, on December 25, 2025, surrounded by his family and loved ones.

Rocky grew up as a young child in Jay Em and Lance Creek, before moving to Casper. From Casper, the family made one final move to Shirley Basin before Rocky graduated high school in Medicine Bow.

He rode bulls and was a great wrestler in high school. He wasn't a stranger to getting into a tussle or two and would fight at the drop of a hat, sometimes dropping his own hat. Some considered him the toughest

man in Wyoming. Wyoming was a central part of who he was.

Rocky was always known as a bit of a gypsy and moved all over the country. He began his mining career at Pathfinder Mine in Shirley Basin, where he worked alongside his father, many other family members, and lifelong friends. Around the same time, he also began guiding hunters near Cody, with BJoe and Brud Coy, among many others.

After attending a Ray Hunt clinic, Rocky began his horse training career and moved to Eagle Point, Oregon, to work for the C2 Cattle Company. There, he refined his skills and showcased his talent with performance horses, earning widespread respect in the cutting horse industry. After several years of training and showing horses up and down the West Coast, Rocky returned to the mining industry in Elko, Nevada, working at one of the gold mines.

Rocky could only stay still for so long, and he eventually moved back to Wyoming, where he briefly worked for John Crump, training cutting horses again. He then went to work as a shovel operator for North Antelope Rochelle Mine. Over the years, he made several moves around the Gillette/Moorcroft area before marrying his wife, Ada. Shortly after their marriage, Rocky and Ada moved to Texas so he could pursue his passion for starting and training two-year-old cutting horses. After several years of moving around Texas training horses, they returned to Wyoming, where Rocky finished out his mining career and eventually retired from NARM. Soon after retirement, Rocky and Ada decided to move back to Texas, where they planned to spend their retirement years.

Rocky was known for his dynamic personality, legendary storytelling, bear-paw hands, and booming voice, which could fill any room and occasionally get him into trouble. Rocky loved nothing more than teasing his beloved children and grandchildren.

Christmas was Rocky's favorite time of year. He loved pretending to be Santa Claus and would call the grandkids near Christmas, trying his best to convince them it was really Santa on the phone. When FaceTime became a thing, much to his dismay, his Santa gig was up as the kids smartened up to his antics.

Above all, Rocky loved his family deeply and cherished his time with his children and grandchildren. He also had a deep and abiding love for the Lord.

Rocky was preceded in death by his father, Vern Vondra; his mother, Orese (Miller) Vondra; and his brother-in-law, Larry Harper.

He is survived by his loving wife, Ada Vondra, his children Jamie Timberman, Rusty (Angie) Vondra, Jodi Dillon, Erin (Cint) Knutson, Riley (Mike) Johnson, Scott (Eric) Timberman, Jobee Timberman, Corbin (Trisha) Timberman, Carey (Chris) Perry, sister Ginger Harper, nephews Cory (Cheryl) Harper, Cody (Trish) Harper.

He is also survived by his cherished grandchildren: Payton Timberman, Kendra Timberman, Teagan (Levi) Jordan, Dana Allman, Paige Timberman, Cadya Perry, Logan Timberman, Tana Timberman, Hadley Vondra, Cross Perry, Caine Perry, Clancy Knutson, Jordyn Timberman, Klaire Knutson, Montana Johnson, Georgia Johnson, and a great grandbaby on the way.

Services will be held January 24th 11:00 a.m. at the Black Hills Cowboy Church, 5236 Old, US-14, Beulah, WY 82712.