



HOME OF THE BIG SPRING COWBOY RODEO AND REUNION  
Not a bad seat out of 7,500 in the house

# BIG SPRING DAILY HERALD

RODEO EDITION

BIG SPRING, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1955

RODEO EDITION

## Rodeo Has Changed Dates, Site, Style Since It Started In 1933

This is the 22nd annual show for the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo, an event held consecutively since 1933 except for one war year—1942.

Over the years the show has moved all over the summer calendar, finally settling little more than a decade ago on August. Since 1945 it has been held traditionally the first week in August.

The show flourished after it set up its first permanent plant in 1934, but rain, believe it or not, began to give trouble on the Labor Day holiday dates. So in 1938 it was pegged around the July 4 season.

Competition, however, was keen with the now firmly established Stamford event and the traditional Pecos rodeos. So the show was set up to June in 1939, but this was too early and caught performers out of the country on previously established legs of the rodeo circuits.

In 1940 the association made its first try for August, this time with a group of local business men underwriting the show because of a gradually weakened position from trying the different dates. The following year the show was held in August also showing some signs of financial rejuvenation.

No effort was made to hold a show in 1942, for restrictions were having their effect. Too, the Chamber of Commerce, which had been working with the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo Association, was up to its neck in trying to work out housing and other auxiliary facilities connected with the Big Spring Bombardier School, which was going into operation soon.

However, by 1943, national authorities had decided that the ultra-austerity program was hardly wise

and encouraged community entertainments on a strictly local level. Almost on an impromptu basis, the Chamber of Commerce got some of the association officials together and produced a bobtailed version of rodeo. This was primarily for the servicemen stationed at the Big Spring Bombardier School, but it also proved highly popular with the civilians, too. Thus, the show was enlarged on the same basis in 1944.

The year 1945 brought a new sort of arrangement into play. To make sure that it was regarded as purely a community undertaking, the association joined once again with the Chamber and J. H. Greene was named general chairman for the show. More specialty acts were pumped into the production, including a local quadrille. A professional announcer, Ray Lackland of Del Rio, was employed.

The following year Earl and Jack Sellers took over, marking the first time that the show had a professional producer handling all operational details. This arrangement continued for three years when Buck and Tommy Steiner took over as producers. Tommy produced the next show on his own and then the Beutler Brothers handled the next three productions. In 1954, Everett Colburn, an outstanding figure in the rodeo world, was secured as the producer and agreed to return to handle the 1955 production.

The first rodeo was held in an open pasture in what is now a flourishing residential area at Birdwell Lane and Eleventh Place. A temporary wire fence was thrown up for a makeshift arena, and cars simply parked around the area.

But as the promoters, including Tom Good, Marion Edwards, Jess

Slaughter, Harry Lee, Ira Driver, Jess Hudson and Noble Reed moved about the crowd taking up admission fees, the response was phenomenal. Good had a sack full of money which he carefully carried with him.

"When Mr. Good got his hands on that sack of money, I think that's when we decided that we'd

### \$100 In Prizes Offered For Best Units In Parade

Parade arrangements for the rodeo opening Wednesday are under the direction of Malcolm Patterson. The review is scheduled to start at 4 p.m., and a total of \$100 in prizes will be awarded to the best floats entered in the activities.

The floats will be judged on the basis of originality, artistry, and portrayal. First prize will be \$50, second prize, \$30; and the third prize, \$20. Only the rolling entries will be eligible for the prizes.

Other units in the parade will be the Pre-Cadet Drill Team and the Drum and Bugle Corps from Goodfellow AFB at San Angelo. The local Community Band will also be featured.

Various units of the local law enforcement agencies will lead the various elements in the parade. A color guard and city, county, and rodeo officials will also participate.

Immediately after the parade, a barbecue dinner will be given to the visiting Sheriff's posse at the city park. Rodeo officials will host the visitors.

try another show," recalled Marion Edwards. At any rate, by the next year \$10,000 in stock had been issued. Half of the block was subscribed readily and then by pushing the total was driven down to \$2,500.

The late W. P. Edwards called in Tom Good and they cooked it up that they, together with the late L. S. McDowell Sr. and the late Bill Currie would slice up the remainder. McDowell was only lukewarm to the idea and the other three took most of what was left.

Land was purchased, chutes constructed and a grandstand, capable of seating 3,500, was erected for the remarkable price of \$3,000. The show was held in this plant until 1949. After that year, the ground was sold and with the proceeds, the new site west of town was bought. Some more capital was pumped into the outlay and a new concrete bowl was constructed. The first show was held there in 1950.

### Few Contestants Killed In Rodeo

Despite the many hazards they face, few rodeo contestants are killed in their line of work.

There are broken bones, of course, along with concussions, sprains and bruises. But the injuries are rarely serious enough to incapacitate the cowboy for any length of time.

Despite the hazards, most individuals who have followed rodeo for years have suffered no more serious injury than those that might happen to less-active persons.

# WELCOME

## To Big Spring's 22nd Annual

# RODEO

AUGUST 3, 4, 5 AND 6

BIG SPRING RODEO BOWL on W. Hwy. 80

Produced By

Gene Autry and Everett C. Colborn

**\$3,700 In Purse Prizes Plus Entry Fees**

Bronc Riding

Calf Roping

Bull Riding

Steer Wrestling

Clowns

Bareback Bronc Riding

Cutting Horse Contest

Cowgirl Sponsor Contest

Trick Riding

Wild Brahma Cow Milking Contest

DON'T MISS THE  
BIG RODEO PARADE

Square Dance On Horseback

**Big Spring Rodeo Association**



Saddle Bronc Riding

The art of saddle bronc riding, a very dangerous way to play, holds first place in all western rodeos and has since the trail-driving days when rodeo was born. Saddle bronc riding is an important part of the cowboy's everyday life. Even before the great cattle drives to the market would begin, the bronc riders had their day, since the horses had to be broken to ride before the cowboys could ride out after the cattle. Early rodeos consisted mainly of tests of saddle bronc skill. Present day rules call for the rider to keep the single rein in one hand, both feet in the stirrups, spurring the animal throughout the 10-second ride. There'll be plenty of bronc riding at the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion Rodeo.

## Saddle Bronc Event Has Most Entries At Rodeo

First place in all western rodeos goes to the saddle bronc riding event. Competitions in this event are always numerous, as best rodeo performers early become familiar with saddle bronc riding as an important and work-a-day part of cowboy life. Because of this basic familiarity on the part of contest entrants, spectators can always expect to see high class saddle bronc riding shows. Talents displayed in the

### Bronc Riding Was Regular Cowboy Job

The bronc riding event at a rodeo is a direct outgrowth of one of the regular chores of old-time cowboys—"breaking" horses. The rodeo event is different in one respect, however. The horses used in rodeos are natural buckers and no attempt is made to "break" them. Out of the arena, the bucking horse may be as gentle as any other animal. Most of them are halter-broken and get rambunctious only when an effort is made to ride them. There are "outlaws" which buck only when ridden bareback. Other buckers may cut up only when a saddle is used. Still others buck when any kind of an attempt is made to ride them. None, however, is trained to buck. That trait comes naturally. Good bucking horses are relatively rare and the prices paid for them range upward from \$1,000. Consequently, very good care is given them. They receive the best feed to keep them in good condition. Teeth, legs and hoofs are kept in order and they are examined after each performance for sprained muscles or other injuries.

### Prairie Lilly Allen Rodeo's 'Mother'

Prairie Lilly Allen might be called the "mother of rodeo." She was a performer and contestant while the sport was in its infancy, and remained in the game until rodeo was a leading pastime throughout the nation. Prairie Lilly's interest in rodeo began when she was but a child in Columbia, Tenn. Subsequently, she supplied stock for western movies, operated a riding school and was featured in several circuses. Her career was highlighted in 1911 at the New York Stampede. Following her performance in the show, she was crowned "first lady" of bronc riding for cowgirls. She gave up bronc riding in 1927, but after retirement continued to entertain rodeo and circus performers at her home in New York City.

## Bull Riding One Of Most Spectacular Rodeo Events

The most spine-tingling event on the bill of fare for the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion Rodeo will be the Brahma bull riding contest.

The Brahmas cattle which will appear here are among the wildest and most vicious of any such cattle ever assembled for a rodeo. And cowboy contestants will have to have as much courage as ability to attempt the ride.

The Brahma bull has no equal in the art of dislodging a rider, and he is not content with merely sending the cowpoke through space. If the thrown rider is not agile enough to make a quick getaway, the Brahma is likely to rough him up with hooves and horns.

Once thrown, the contestant is strictly on his own. No pickup man lends a helping hand, but there are clowns to help somewhat when the riders get into trouble.

If a bull turns on an unseated rider, which is the usual case, the clowns attempt to attract the attention of the animal while the fallen cowboy hustles to his feet and races to the arena wall.

Many a dash has been made for the top of an arena fence that would make a track star envious. Reason is that Brahma bulls are wild, vicious beasts and are more like jungle than domestic animals.

Brahmas are the quickest animals of their size in the world, and those used in rodeos come principally from the hot South Texas range country. The big, powerful animals are as tough as any outlaw horse ever born, and they are beyond the riding ability of most cowboys.

However, bull riders are proficient in their work. Their lives depend on knowing the habits and temperaments of the wild cattle. They know that danger comes after they are thrown, and they try to time their falls so that the bull will be racing away from them in a straight line at the time.

Riders know to fall flat on their face when they are unable to outdistance a charging bull. Often the charging animal will pass over without getting horns low enough to gore the man.

Several of the Brahmas in the Colborn string, to appear here, have never been ridden. A good many more are rarely ridden. All are outlaws.

If they were not outlaws they would be gentle, for the Brahma cattle are among the most gentle in the world ordinarily. In their native India they are used for beasts of burden, for riding, dairying and for pulling wagons and plows.

The first real importation of Brahma bulls into Texas for crossbreeding purposes was probably made by the fabulous Shanghai Pierce, South Texas rancher. It

has only been during the last two or three years that the Pierce Estate has sold any of their now purebred bulls.

The Brahmas have proved valuable for crossbreeding purposes in South Texas and in other Southern states because of their heat-resistant and insect-resistant qualities superior to those of the British breeds. They also produce a fine quality beef.

The only true breed of cattle ever developed in North America is the Santa Gertrudis developed by the King Ranch. This breed is the result of a cross between Brahmas and Shorthorns.

Other Brahma cross-bred ventures were with the Charolais to produce the Charbray, with the Angus to produce the Brangus, and with the Herefords to produce the Bratfords.

Lorin McDowell, Glascock County rancher, is now engaged in a Braford breeding program. He also maintains a herd of purebred Brahmas.

Brahmas, unlike the British cattle breeds, can sweat through their skins and have such muscular control of that skin that they can dislodge insects like horses. They can, and do, graze farther from water than the British breeds.

Some South Texas cowmen say the Brahma has saved the cattle industry in their section. Many commercial feeders prefer Brahmas and crossbred Brahmas to other cattle because the animals are fast gainers on little feed, being profitable to handle.

### Bulldogging Thrill-Filled

Bulldogging — also called steer wrestling—probably thrills more rodeo spectators than any other event.

The audacity, dash and daring of bulldoggers give the spectator just about as much action as can be packed into such a short period of time.

There is considerable dispute as to the origin of the event. Some rodeo followers credit Texan Bill Pickett with the introduction of the sport. Others contend bulldogging was first done by the Mexicans and later taken up by Southwestern cowboys during branding season.

The contest is governed by arena conditions. Three timers are required—a deadline referee, a field judge and other officials.

Contestants must furnish their own mounts and secure the services of an aide to keep the steer running in a straight line while preparing for his "catch."

event are usually unsurpassed.

Present day rules, which are much as they have been for 50 years, call for the rider to keep the single rein in one hand and both feet in the stirrups, spurring the horse throughout the 10-second ride.

Every horse has his particular style of bucking, but no bronc rider has a style for landing if he fails to stay in the saddle. Somehow, though, most manage to get on their feet and out of the bucking horse's way once they are dethroned.

In the struggle between man and beast, the best of both the breeds will be on display at the Big Spring Rodeo. Not only are the top riders in the business competing, but the stock furnished by the World's Championship Rodeo is the most outstanding ever presented in any rodeo arena.

Last year Marvin Holmes of Picketts, Okla., took first place honors in the saddle bronc riding contest here. Neal Gay, Carrollton, came in second, and Freckles

Brown, Lawton, Okla., was third.

Among the tops in the string of bucking horses are such names as Super Chief, Chief Tyhee, Pay Day, Cougar, West Texas, King and Roy Bean.

Bronc-riders have been in business for a long time. Even before the great cattle-drives to market could begin, the riders had their day. Horses had to be broken before the drives could begin.

The early rodeos resulted from these bronc-busting events.

### Caretaker Works The Year Around

A full time caretaker is hired by the rodeo association to keep a watch over the plant and to attend to the routine maintenance of it.

A small caretaker's cottage was built this year and Wiley Albin was retained as the caretaker. He keeps the fences up, checks on the bowl, corrals, etc.

# Let's Go! RODEO

AUGUST 3, 4, 5, 6

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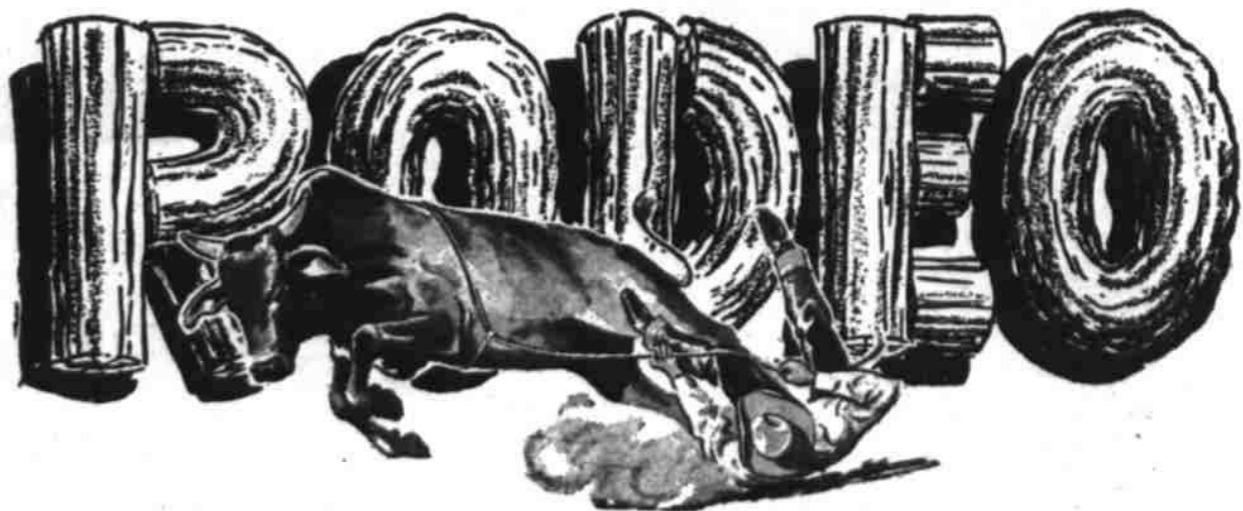


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22nd Annual Cowboy Reunion and Championship

# RODEO

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AUGUST 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th.

This year's festivities for the 22nd Annual Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo are planned to be the biggest yet. Big names in production and performance will be here to assure you of the finest in Rodeo showing. A minimum of \$3,700 plus entry fees guarantees top competition among the best. Don't miss the Big Spring Rodeo this year!

SEE FEATURE PERFORMERS IN . . .

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- BULLDOGGING
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- COMEDY RIDERS
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# Cutting Horse Is Real Specialist

The rodeo cutting horse is a specialist, agree all the cowboys. He must be easy to train and he must have plenty of "cow savvy."

Ever since the beginning of the cattle business in the West, good cutting horses have been essential to the cowmen. They have been known at times as "parting" horses; "carving" horses; and "whit-tlers."

However, regardless of the name, the animals have been known for their speciality. That being, their ability to go into a herd and "cut out" some particular animal that is the object of the rider's eye and to separate the animal from the herd, keeping it apart from the others with the minimum amount of disturbance of the other cattle in the herd.

Cutting out a steer in the rodeo isn't exactly like doing it in the actual work on the range. Usually when it is being done on the range, the other cowboys stay out of the way. In the rodeo arena, it is quite a different matter and a more difficult one because to make a better show of it, somebody intentionally gets in the way and tries to drive the animal back into the herd.

Therefore, the horse must be trained to overcome even such added resistance to his best efforts. In the training of cutting horses, patience and continued practice are of prime importance.

Today there are fewer good cutting horses than ever before because the absolute need for a good cutting horse is not as great as it was back in the days of the early West.

But now the popularity and usefulness of good cutting horses is being built back up again by the rodeo. The cutting horse events are a very popular part of the rodeo which is the main reason for their renewed value.

The cutting horse plays a head-up game like a football player who blocks or tackles the ball carrier. Like a football player, the horse must always be on the alert for the sudden play and the subsequent sprints when the cut-out animal attempts to break back into the herd.

He is a broken field runner and knows the elements of timing in heading off a wild steer. Too, a good cutting horse won't back up or allow the escape of the steer even if it means a collision.

Rodeo cattle herds used in working cutting horses may be made up of bulldozing steers, wild cows from the milking contests and roping calves.

There isn't any other performance, not even in circus acts, that

requires a greater co-ordination between horse and rider, or that has greater beauty of graceful action than a rodeo cutting horse event.

These events are pageants of perfect coordination and teamwork. Presenting a colorful picture of range work, the stock horses get their big chance to show the fans they can perform equally as well in an arena as on the range.

Staged under the rules of the National Cutting Horse Association, this contest will be one of the best attractions at the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion Rodeo this year.

These are the contest rules:  
1. A horse should have some credit for his ability to enter a herd of cattle and bring out one without too much disturbance to the herd or the one animal. A penalty is assessed for unnecessary disturbances.

2. The horse must drive the cut-out animal toward the hazers. The animal can go by the arena fence but the horse should never get ahead of the animal.

3. A penalty is given if a horse runs into or scatters the herd while trying to head an animal.

4. The horse will be disqualified without any score for the wrong way with tail toward the animal.

5. The horse will be penalized each time he has to be reined. The harder the rein, the heavier the penalty.

6. A penalty will be given for part-time reining as well as a tight rein throughout the performance.

7. If a horse allows an animal to return to the herd he will receive a penalty.

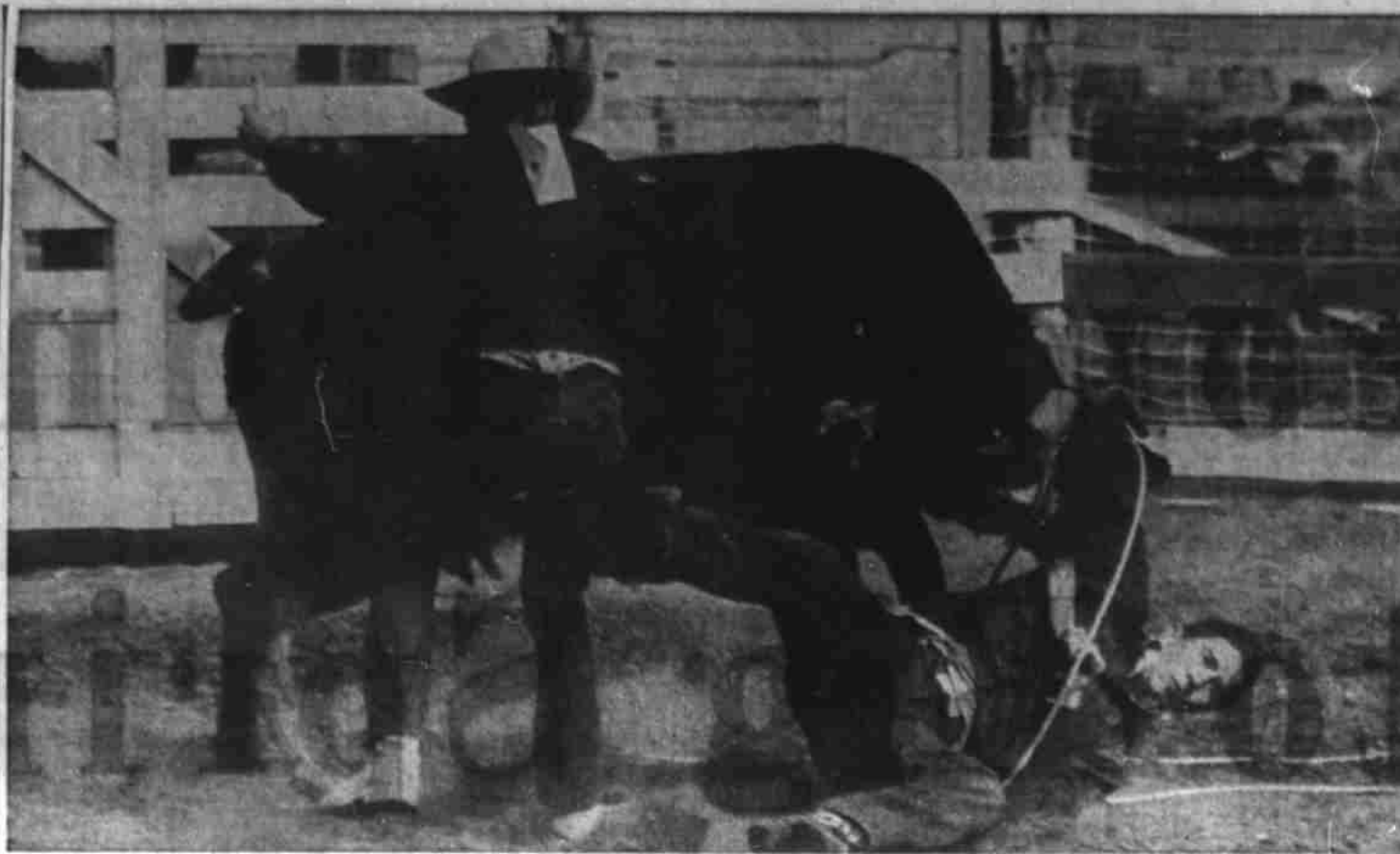
8. When a horse heads an animal and goes on past, as much as a length, he should be assessed a heavier penalty.

## 'Rodeo Wives' Are Among Best Fans

Some of the most avid fans at any rodeo are the wives of the contestants. And some of the "rodeo wives" may be contestants also, in the various events for women.

Among this group are writers, dancers, teachers, clerks and former industrial workers — as well as former ranch girls.

Rodeo work causes these women and their husbands to move rapidly from town to town, and as a result most of their friends are other rodeo followers. As they follow the circuit during the summer, they live in trailers, tourist camps, hotels, motels and even tents.



Wild Cow Milking

Cow milking is a pastime in which cowboys rarely indulge, but when the crowd is yelling and the cow is a wild Brahma and the cowboy is working against time, he can really get into high gear. It works like this: One cowboy on horseback attempts to rope the cow and hold her until the mugger, on foot, grabs her by the horns

and tries to hang on. The roper must drop his rope, dismount and milk the cow into a soda pop bottle, and then race on foot to the finish line with the milk. The event furnishes a lot of excitement and amusement, although there isn't much chance of the cowboy getting even enough milk for his morning coffee.

## Cowboy Jargon Full Of Meaning

What would you think if you heard a cowboy at a rodeo say, "That balance rider just kept bicycling the sunfishing high roller?"

You would probably be like the majority of others and think that you were listening to a foreigner or a teen-ager expressing the "jive." Possibly you would think someone was cursing.

Actually you would be listening to some of the more common words and terms used by cowpokes in reference to their work and play. The cowboy would have been saying that a performer who sticks to a bucking horse solely by balancing himself in the saddle just kept spurring the bronc's sides, while

the high leaping horse twisted violently from side to side.

The rodeo cowboy has a vocabulary of his own, and to enjoy the sport of rodeo, a fan should know some of the terms used. A partial list follows:

**Piggin' String**—A short trestling with which the cowboy makes his roped stock secure.

**Hooey**—The lightning-fast half hitch at the finish of tying a calf.

**Blowing a Stirrup**—To lose a stirrup.

**High Roller**—A horse that leaps high in the air when bucking.

**Neck Rope**—A loop around the horse's neck which the catch-rope is run through after it is made fast to the saddle horn. This keeps the roper's horse facing the calf while he is tying it.

**Bicycling**—Spurring a bronc's sides first with one foot and then the other.

**Dallying**—To take a wrap or several wraps around the horn with rope, making it temporarily secure.

**Choking the Apple**—To grab the saddle horn while contest bronc riding. This disqualifies a rider.

**Dog-Fall**—A fall of a steer in bull-dogging, with its legs doubled up beneath it. To be timed, a steer must fall with all four legs pointing in the same direction.

**Pick-up Man**—A mounted cowboy in the arena who 'picks up' the riders after they have completed their 10-second rides.

**Sunfishing**—When a horse twists its body violently from side to side, rollings its belly upward toward the sun, it's said to be "sunfishing."

**Hot Shot**—A tube-like electric device pressed against the hide of a bronc or bull to shock the animal into quick movement. Used around the loading chutes.

**Community Loop**—A large loop thrown at stock by a roper.

**Runaway Buckler**—A bronc that runs wildly from the chute and then "breaks in two" some place in the middle of the arena.

**Balance Rider**—A cowboy who rides a bucking horse solely by balancing himself in the saddle.

**Spinner**—A bull or horse that bucks out in close, tight circles. Such animals are very difficult to ride.

**Fairgrounding**—Tripping a steer by manipulation of the rope behind the animal's rump, so that it falls with enough force to stun it momentarily while the cowboy ties it. More commonly called steer busting, this is not one of the main events of most rodeos.

**End Swapper**—A bronc that reverses its position in the midst of a high buck.

**Clean Out**—When a roped steer or calf is thrown cleanly to the ground with its legs out in one direction, it's described as being "cleaned out."

**Toss the Slack**—When a roper throws the slack rope ahead of his horse after making a catch on a calf, he is "tossing the slack."

**Heeler**—A cowboy who ropes the hind legs of a steer in the team-tying event. One roper, the "header," ropes the horns; the heeler goes after the legs.

**Suckin' His Back**—A form of bucking in which the bronc seems to suck his back down into his stomach. Hard to stay aboard.

## Announcer Has Important Role In The Rodeo

One of the most important parts of any rodeo is the announcer. He is taken for granted by most persons attending these events, but the average spectator depends on the announcer to keep him informed of the schedule of events as well as the names of the participants.

No matter how well versed the spectator may be in rodeo matters, he loses much of the spectacle of the rodeo if he does not know which contestant is coming up, which horse is being ridden, and all the other minutiae of the modern rodeo.

Most persons only see a rodeo once or twice each year. Therefore they are probably interested in knowing a short history of the contestants as they appear on the scene. It is the announcer's job to know all these facts and tell the audience.

Today's announcers are expected to know these facts and have knowledge of the rodeo and the events that are taking place.

It has not always been so. Back in the early days of the rodeo, announcers were chosen on the basis of who could holler the loudest and longest. Having no electrical equipment, the early announcers used a megaphone, if available, and the strength of their lungs.

Even then, the spectator lost much of the information that was being shouted at him. Also, the announcer left out a lot of useful information because he wanted to conserve his voice.

This is all in the past now, however, because the microphone enables the announcer to keep up a running line of chatter all through the rodeo.

## It Takes Money To Follow Rodeo

To be a regular rodeo contestant, you've either got to have a lot of money or be able to win some of the prize money offered at the various shows.

The rodeo circuit is an expensive one to follow.

Persons who make a career of rodeo attend between 30 and 40 contests each season. There are about 14,000 such contestants and each rodeo season brings out new competitive threats.

Each contestant pays a fee ranging from \$3 to \$100 for each event he enters. The fee, of course, depends on the size of the contest. Most fees are included in the prize purses.

## \$3,700 'Added' To Rodeo Purses

The 22nd annual Big Spring Cowboy Rodeo and Reunion will have \$3,700 in added purses.

This simply means that the rodeo association is putting up this amount to winners in the various events. It is "added" to the entry fees which the performers themselves post. The entry fees are split into day or go-around money and into show money, usually on a one-two-three-four basis. The more who enter the contest, the greater the pots. The association prize money is simply a flat payment to the prize fund without regard to the number of entries.

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# RODEO

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## Big Spring Rodeo

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**LIGHTNING C RANCH HORSEBACK QUADRILLE**  
Riders go through intricate maneuvers of old-time square dance

## Horseback Quadrille One Of Rodeo's Most Thrilling Acts

Not the least spectacular event to be seen at the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo will be the Lightning C Ranch Horseback Quadrille.

This old-fashioned square dance done on speeding pairs of matched horses is the personal project of the rodeo's producer, Everett E. Colborn.

Colborn spent considerable time and money searching for the perfectly matched pairs of horses that are used in the Quadrille. After these horses were found they had to be well-trained in the intricacies of the dance, for a mistake could

mean a bad accident for a rider or horse.

Most of the horses in the Quadrille know their parts so well they could almost go through them without their riders.

The cowboys and cowgirls who ride in the Quadrille are seasonal followers of Colborn's rodeos and many of them have ridden in the event for years.

Colborn himself worked out the complicated dance, patterning it after a real old-time square dance

and adding and ending in which the riders dash full speed through a thread-the-needle figure eight for extra thrills. The riders are led through their performance by Colborn on his horse Blaze.

The Quadrille is made up of eight couples, who wear colorful matching satin shirts and chaps decorated with the Lightning C brand.

They ride with speed and daring through the do-si-do and a-la-man lefts that make up one of the most exciting events of the rodeo.

### Hoyle Nix Returns With Rodeo Music

An old hand at playing for the Big Spring rodeo will be back in the band box this year.

He is Hoyle Nix, who along with his West Texas Cowboys, will furnish music for the four performances.

Hoyle played several shows for the rodeo when he was just getting started out with his string band and before he and his brother, Ben Nix, had gained wide fame and following.

In addition to playing pre-show and intermission music, Hoyle and his boys will cue the various specialty acts.

### Local Show Started In 1933 As Strictly Amateur Affair

The Big Spring rodeo, like most community rodeos, started out as an amateur affair.

That would be the ordinary course of affairs were a rodeo starting out now, but back in 1933 it was a case of necessity. There simply wasn't anything except an amateur show.

The rodeo here had been functioning for several years when cow-

boys, who regularly followed the rodeo trail, began to band together to bargain for their interest.

At first they came together as the CTA—the Cowboys' Turf Association.

This organization had its flaws and weaknesses and presently was succeeded by the more responsible and enduring Rodeo Cowboys Association. On the West Coast and west of the Rockies, the counterpart to this is the International Rodeo Association.

When the associations approve a given rodeo, then contestants may not only pocket their winnings but along with it receive credit for their earnings in the annual championship chase. In unapproved shows, earnings (or points) do not count toward the championship.

The RCA maintains headquarters and publishes a monthly magazine, the Buckboard, which reports latest standings along with news about producers, performers and specialty acts in the trade.

### Roping Club Is Rodeo Offshoot

One of the developments of the annual rodeo here is the Howard County Roping Club.

While the club is not expected to be a revenue producer, it does make a sort of contribution to the rodeo in two ways. First of all it furnishes a medium of maintaining interest in the rodeo sport for a good part of the year. By doing this it frequently provides a proving ground for potential rodeo contestants.

Another indirect contribution is that it encourages an orderly traffic to the plant, and thus lessens its chances for deterioration through isolation. Vandals don't seem to pick on a place which is used systematically and frequently.

E. P. Driver is president of the Howard County Roping Club. The vice president is Dr. Allen R. Hamilton, and the secretary is M. L. Patterson. Directors are M. M. Edwards, Jess Slaughter, Toots Mansfield and Hezzie Read. The club ropes regularly on Tuesday evenings and occasionally stages matched roping and jackpot roping events.

### Local Clubs Help With Details Of Annual Rodeo

Several organizations assist in handling phases of the annual Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo.

For instance, the Chamber of Commerce always serves as a sort of clearing house on box seats. Reservations are accepted at the rate of \$25 for the four nights (except for the boxes in the horse-shoe bend at the south of arena, which go at \$15 for the four nights). Each box has six chairs. Individual admission tickets are bought in addition at the customary rate of \$2 for adults and 50 cents for children.

The Lions Club this year has been handling the advance ticket sales on a percentage basis, applying its proceeds to the Salvation Army playground project.

The American Business Club, as in the past, has taken over the sales of advertising in and the production and show sales of the program. The Jaycees have taken over the handling of concessions at the shows.

### Crockett Watch

ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky. (AP)—Phil Watkins has on display at his jewelry shop a watch presented to Davy Crockett by President Andrew Jackson. On the back is engraved, "Go Ahead, D. Crockett."

### World Mark Set At Local Rodeo

One record made in the Big Spring Rodeo arena last summer

stands as a world's record in the sport.

When Bill Agee, Amarillo, plunged from his horse onto the horns of a steer and spun it to the earth in 2.7 seconds, he not only beat a record for the local show, but he shaded the existing world's record by .1 of a per cent. Prior to that no one thought that

the bulldozing record of Dub Pugh

lips of San Angelo would ever be broken here. Dub had brought down his steer in three seconds flat. The same night that Agee set his record, Paul Leasing of Kibben made a 3.4 record and the highest of four times for the night was 3.6 seconds.



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**COWBOY BOUNCED FROM SEAT ON BULL**  
Brahma tries to snag horn in sprawling cowhand

## Bull Riding One Of Rodeo's Most Exciting Attractions

Brahma bull riding is recognized as the most exciting event at any rodeo and this reputation has grown through the vicious attitudes of the Brahma bulls.

These animals are recognized as the wildest and meanest beasts ever introduced into a rodeo arena.

It is little wonder that the riders of the bulls must combine courage with ability and agility in order to win in the competition. In the fine art of dislodging a rider, the Brahma has no equal. And he is not content with merely getting the rider off; the bull tries to gore the rider or tramp him with his hoofs.

One trick the Brahma rider learns early. When the bull is charging, the rider must fall flat to the ground, as the bull only rarely goes low enough to reach

the man's body. The bull usually charge right on by.

Although there are clowns in the ring to give the rider an assist if necessary, the cowboy is largely on his own. There are no pickup men on horseback to help him as in bronc riding. When the rider is thrown, he makes a dash for the fence, hoping to beat the bull and get clear of the horns.

The cowboys sitting around the fence will always leap to the rescue, however, if a rider is hurt and cannot make a try for the fence. While still astride the bull, a rider tries to gauge his fall so that he will drop while the bull is charging straight. Then the bull will be far away when the man gets up to run for the fence.

But the bull too, is agile and can very easily turn around and

make the cowboy literally run for his very life.

Brahma bulls are more like jungle animals than domesticated cows. The ones appearing here are a cross between the Texas Longhorn and the sacred bulls of India. They are exceptionally quick and agile for their size. They are raised principally in the hot Texas range country.

The Brahma is as tough as any outlaw horse and some of them are beyond the riding ability of any cowboy. Some of the Brahmas appearing in Big Spring have never been ridden and others only rarely ridden.

Winners of this contest last year in Big Spring were Ira Akers of Fort Worth, first place; Ed Cole of Lawton, Okla., second place; Joe Green of Ardmore, Okla., third place; and Jim Peterson of Beresford, S. D., fourth place.



**RODEO CLOWN TAKES A TUMBLE**  
Clown plays vital role in protecting bull riders

## Rodeo Clown Is One Of Key Men In Wild Bull Riding Act

Anyone who knows anything about rodeos will tell you that one of the key men in a show is the "clown."

This is simply because he is more than a funny man to evoke smiles from the youngsters and laughs from the youngsters. He is an indispensable figure in keeping the show going and in protecting personnel. If a rider is thrown by a bull, the clown—although you may think he is trying to be entertaining—is instantly on the spot to detract the attention of an enraged bull away from the rider.

He helps to work stock out of the arena; he is on the alert to see that nothing happens to distract ropers on their chances.

Everett Colburn, producer of this year's Big Spring Cowboy Reunion

and Rodeo, is convinced that he has one of the best clowns in the rodeo business in the person of D. J. Gaudin, known more popularly as the Kajun Kid.

Gaudin was born of Arcadian parents in Baton Rouge, La., 25 years ago. He started out in the business trying to ride bulls and bareback horses in amateur rodeos. Most of these rodeos had no bull fighting so Kajun started helping keep the bulls off the fallen cowboys.

He perceived he was better at bull fighting than at bull riding, so he changed his profession. Along with this he began developing his clown technique at amateur rodeos.

In 1952 he joined the Rodeo Cowboys Association and has fast worked his way to the top. Last year he worked at the Madison Square

Garden, the Boston Garden and Detroit, Mich. Rodeos, all of them qualifying under the world's championship rodeo arrangement.

Kajun will be assisted here by a seasoned veteran, Buck LeGrand. Colburn says that the two have done excellent work where they have been.

## Spaniards May Have Been The First To Stage Rodeo

The word rodeo was adapted to its present use from the early Spaniards when they began to herd cattle on the Plains.

Originally, the word meant to round up the cattle for branding or to take them to the cattle market. When they reached the market place, a fiesta, which eventually became known as a rodeo, was held.

The people connected with the rodeo, especially the contestants, prefer the pronunciation, ro-dee-o, rather than the Spanish ro-day-o. However, the latter pronunciation is still used in some sections.

The commercial element of entertainment which is added to the present day rodeo makes it much

more than just a round-up such as was held in the early days.

There is no agreement as to the exact date of the first rodeo. Each section of the country boasts a certain contribution to the cowboy sport.

The competition is believed to have started when men of superior skill began bragging of their roping and riding abilities, and were challenged by men of other camps.

Dr. Clifford P. Westmeier, author of the only book ever written about rodeos, "Man, Beasts and Dust" says that the first exhibitions of cowboy skill took place about the same time throughout the West.

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MR. RODEO AND BLAZE Colborn seldom separated from mount

## Everett Colborn Is Boss Of The Show

The wheel boss behind the production of the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion Rodeo is a retiring, soft-spoken man of many accomplishments.

He is Everett E. Colborn, manager of the famed Lightning C Ranch at Dublin, a man who has taken his place at the top of the rodeo profession through hard work and good business sense.

Colborn spent his early years on his father's cattle ranches and later became a partner with his father. When ranching was unprofitable, the Idaho-born Colborn turned to rodeo.

He produced his first small rodeos in the Northwest during summers and returned to ranching in winter.

In the mid-30's he and his partners bought the largest rodeo outfit in the country from the late Col. W. T. Johnson of San Antonio.

Since then, Colborn has devoted his efforts to improving his rodeo livestock and the quality of his shows. With productions from coast to coast, his rodeos have played in New York City, Boston, Great Falls, Mont., San Antonio, Houston, San Angelo, Midland and

Selma, Ala., among other places.

Colborn makes his home just outside Dublin on his own ranch from which he directs the vast Lightning C spread of 14,000 acres, 13 miles southeast of Dublin. On his homeplace he keeps his favorite horses, which include fine cutting horses, a number of Quarter Horse colts and a herd of Brahma cattle.

The Lightning C consists of rolling grassland and is said to be the largest ranch in the world devoted exclusively to the maintenance of rodeo stock. It is owned and operated by World's Championship Rodeo, Gene Autry & Associates, Ltd. The livestock is rested and fed at the Lightning C between engagements.

Mr. and Mrs. Colborn have two attractive daughters who play a part in each rodeo. They are Collyn and Rosemary, the latter being married to Harry Tompkins, Dublin, who currently holds the all-around champion rodeo title. Rosemary and Carolyn take part in the colorful parades and in the grand entries. They also ride in the mounted quadrille.

## Calf Roping Most Competitive Event

The most competitive event in rodeo—and the one involving the most finesse and skill—is calf roping.

One of the most popular events also, good calf roping is a perfect illustration of coordination between man and horse. And there is real money at stake as the cowboys and their mounts team up to see which can rope and tie a bawling calf in the shortest period of time.

Man and horse are rivals in the bronc riding events, but they are teamed together against the calf in the roping contest. Here you witness a contest that has its practical use on the ranches. The roping of cattle on the ranges is almost an every day chore for the cowboys, and the rider and roping horse must work together.

The contest begins as the calf crosses the starting line in front of the chute. Then the rider and horse rush in a zig-zag course.

A lariat comes to life as the roper twirls it several times overhead and then lets it fly toward the racing calf. A loose noose falls over the neck of the animal and the roper begins to dismount, even before his horse comes to a stop. The rope tightens and the good roping horse keeps it tight as the roper races to the calf.

The next problem of the roper is to throw the animal to the ground

and tie three legs securely in a fashion accepted by the judges, who make examination to see that a good job of tying has been done.

Should the calf be down when the roper gets to it, he must let the animal up and then throw it by sheer strength.

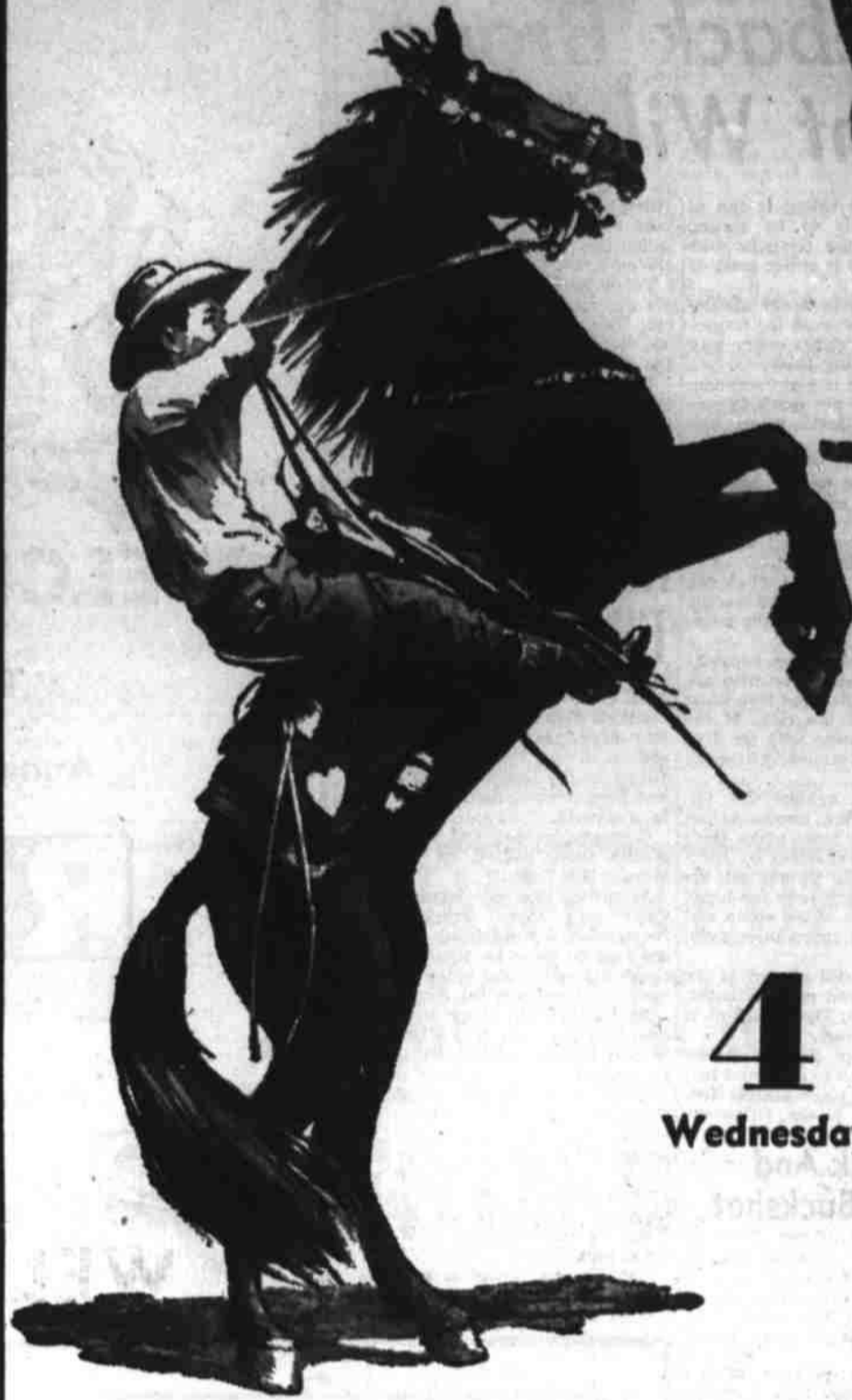
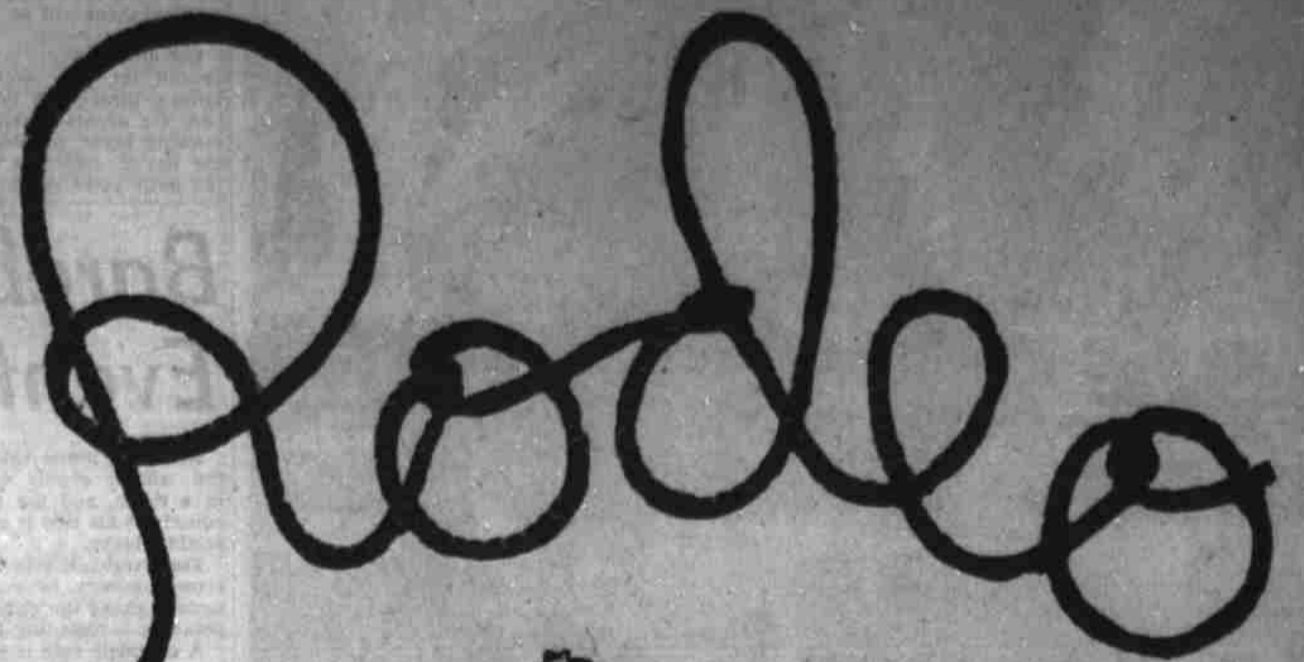
Each roper is allowed to use two loops, and if he should fail to catch his calf on the second try he must retire from the arena with "no time." In the opinion of the judges, any roper failing to make an honest effort with loops will be disqualified in all events for the remainder of the show.

Most calf ropers do not enter other phases of rodeo. They consider calf roping fun. Years of practice and athletic ability are necessary if the man is to be "good."

The horses used by the calf roping contestants are usually Quarter Horses, bred especially for the fast and furious pace of the rodeo arena.

Toots Mansfield of Big Spring is considered one of the best calf ropers the world has ever seen. In his late twenties Mansfield was the R. A. A. Calf Roping Champion for three consecutive years, 1929, 1940 and 1941. He has won the title several times since then.

# WELCOME TO BIG SPRING'S 22ND ANNUAL



# 4

## BIG NIGHTS

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday



It is indeed a pleasure to welcome visitors to Big Spring's 22nd Annual Rodeo. The Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo Association is to be commended for the fine preparation of this year's show. It will be a credit to our section of the state.

# FIRST NATIONAL BANK

In Big Spring



Rider Jim Midland Battles With "West Texas"

## Some Of Top Outlaw Horses In Nation Will Be In Action Here

Some of the top outlaw bucking horses in the nation will be displayed at the Big Spring Rodeo this year.

These horses will be provided by Everett E. Colborn, producer of world's championship rodeos, and most of them will be from Canada and the Northwest.

Colborn conducts a never-ending search for top outlaw bucking horses, throughout the rodeo season. He scouts small rodeos and bucking horse auctions throughout the nation, selecting the outstanding performers to add to his outfit.

Colborn knows that the horse performers must be as good, and if possible better, than the cowboys who will try to ride them. A rodeo is only as good as its stock, according to the adage.

Horses cannot be trained to buck. They are outlaws at heart with the spirit to buck, or they don't do it, Colborn points out. Some go on bucking all their lives, while others turn in a few good performances and then call it a day.

Even after the outlaws are "used up" by rodeos, they are still mean and do not make good saddle horses.

Neither do they make work animals.

Because the rodeo life of a horse is usually so brief, promoters such as Colborn must continually add fresh stock to keep their lineups in top form.

As Colborn gathers his horses, he places them in the pasture

lands of his Lightning C. Ranch until the animals are needed for rodeo performances.

Sleek and fat from rest at the headquarters ranch, these outlaw horses are ready to test the mettle of top cowhands gathered at the rodeo.

In keeping with his practice of adding new and tested bucking horses to his rodeo string, Colborn constantly selects fresh broncs in horse auctions such as that in Miles City, Montana.

Among the string here will be the Super Chief, Chief Tybee, Cougar, Newport, Roy Bean and King.

## Do-It-Yourself Fans Take Note

CLEWISTON, Fla. (AP) — Most of the Seminole Indians in the Everglades live in primitive chickees—tiny open shelters consisting only of a thatched roof mounted on four poles. But 15 Indian families on the Big Cypress reservation have wired their chickees and are receiving electricity from a rural electrification administration line running 50 miles from here to their settlement.

## Bareback Bronc Event Wild One

Bareback bronc riding is one of the wildest events to be staged in a rodeo, and the cowpoke who completes his ride is either good or mighty lucky.

The bareback events are always crowd pleasers, because the broncs usually shake the riders every way possible — including loose.

A complete ride is eight seconds, but most cowboys are quick to emphasize that it feels more like eight years.

"There's a whole lot of difference in staying on the back of a bronc equipped with a saddle and in sticking to one that offers only a surcingle for balance," one rodeo performer pointed out.

Though neither task is what can be described as easy, the saddle job is much preferred to the bareback task.

In bareback riding the cowpoke must hold on to his bronc with only one hand, keeping the free hand in the air during the ride. If the rider grabs his horse with the free hand, judges automatically disqualify him.

Matching skill against the talents of the bucking broncs is not enough, as riders must make their positions more precarious by spurring their animals throughout the ride. The rider must spur the horse the first jump out of the chute and keep raking with spurs throughout the ride.

If the rider is still aboard at the end of the required eight minutes, he has a problem. That problem is getting off his bronc.

Since the horse has no halter for the pickup men to grab and halt the bucking, the rider usually lets go all holds and jumps. Often the

rider waits for the pickup men to race alongside and bodily lift him from the bucking bronc. Either choice has its thrills.

Tough as the horses are, the riders are anxious to draw the toughest. The ride is judged on the ability of the animal as well as the performance of the cowboy.

Last year's winners of the local bareback bronc riding contest were Chock McDougal, Midland, first; Marvin Holmes, Piekens, Okla., second; Ira Akers, Fort Worth, third; and Neal Gay, Carrollton, fourth.

## No Bar-Killin Till He Was 8

OKAWVILLE, Ill. (AP) — Davy Crockett didn't kill a bear when he was three, according to one of his nearest living relatives. The first killing by the famed Indian fighter and frontiersman didn't occur until he was eight.

Contrary to song and story, that is the word passed on by Mrs. Margie Ree Cohn.

According to family legends, Mrs. Cohn said Davy Crockett was responsible for obtaining meat for the family when he was eight because his father and older brothers were too busy with the crops.

To do this job, Davy was given one bullet a day. If he shot and missed he still had to get the meat. In a short time, he rarely missed.

Officials of the 1938 Centennial compiled a genealogy tracing Mrs. Cohn's relationship to Crockett.

Crockett and his wife had three children, two boys and one girl. The daughter, Margaret Finley Crockett, married Wiley Flowers. They were the parents of Mrs. Cohn's grandfather, David Flowers.

David's son, Thomas, was Mrs. Cohn's father, making Davy Crockett her great-great grandfather.

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**Come Back And Get Your Buckshot**

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — When Chick Williams' service station was robbed of \$55 a week ago, he inserted an advertisement in a newspaper urging the gunman to "come back and get your bonus green stamps."

Yesterday two robbers visited the station and took \$225 from an attendant.

Williams still believes in advertising. He inserted another ad which reads: "Staying open 24 hours a day for your convenience."

What Williams didn't say is that he has loaded his shotgun and taken it to the station.

**Cop Puts Ticket On His Own Car**

LONG BEACH, N.Y. (AP) — The car was parked in a no-parking zone and Patrolman William Miller clearly saw his duty. He wrote out a \$2 ticket.


It wasn't quite so clear who would pay the fine. The car happened to be the Miller family car left there by the patrolman's wife yesterday while she and the children went to the beach.

"She's going to pay the fine herself," Miller commented.

"I'll pay it all right," his wife said later, "but I'll use his money."

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**HOWDY VISITORS!**

**WELCOME TO THE**  
**RODEO**


It's Rodeo time again . . . and for four big nights, the 22nd annual Big Spring Rodeo will be held at the Rodeo Association bowl. Plan now to attend. Prizes this year total \$3,700 plus all entry fees and 8 events are carded each night. And for the finest in rodeo and authentic western wear, always shop Prager's first . . . complete western wear headquarters for men, women and children.

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**Rodeo Family**

The Everett Colborns, above, producers of the Big Spring Rodeo, are a rodeo family. Colborn has been in the business for more than 30 years and the rest of the family have played important roles in the operation down through the years. Shown with Mr. and Mrs.

Colborn are their two grandchildren, Mark and Martha Tompkins, children of Harry and Rosemary Colborn Tompkins, back row (right). The other member of the family is Carolyn Colborn, left, in the back row.

### Facilities For Keeping Horses Among The Best

Few in the country and perhaps no rodeo in the Southwest has the accommodations for contestants' mounts as are provided by the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo Association.

This year the association has constructed an additional 40 stalls for horses of the participants in the rodeo. This brings to 80 the number of stalls available for horses used in roping, bulldogging, etc.

It answers a pertinent question for many a cowboy making the rodeo — that of "what can I do with my horse?" Frequently, a contestant has to hunt all over town to find a place to stable his horse or to tie him up to his trailer — a very unsatisfactory situation. At Big Spring, however, he will be assigned a stall and all he has to do is show up to feed his horse.

Officials think 80 stalls will be ample, but if they should prove inadequate, chances are that the association would provide more in due time.

### Barley May Replace Oats

KANKAKEE, Ill. (U) — Farmers hereabouts are keeping their eyes on the fall-seeded barley field of Henry Classen for it may prove to be a profitable substitute for oats as a crop.

Known in New York state as Hudson barley, it is a new winter variety developed at Ithaca by the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

In its home state, yields have averaged 54.6 bushels an acre during the years 1947 to 1953. The test weight is 48.4 pounds a bushel. It is believed the new variety of barley is especially adaptable to the Illinois climate because Classen's field showed very little winter kill.

### Steer Roping Now Banned As Too Dangerous

One of the toughest rodeo events — steer roping — won't be included in the Big Spring Rodeo this year. Nor is it on the program at other rodeos.

Steer roping has been banned for many years as too dangerous. The event gave the steer about as much chance of stomping his would-be roper as it gave the cowboy of throwing the animal and tying him up.

The secret of steer roping, when it was widely practiced, was to loop the big animal, trip him with the rope and then get his legs tied before he could scramble to his feet. Once the steer got to his feet, the cowboy had little chance to throw him as he does a calf. If the cowboy failed to tie his steers, he simply threw up his hands as a "give up" signal. He would be given the elapsed time, plus a minute penalty.

If the steer was tied, the judges were required to whack him across the head and horns until he made at least one attempt to get up. They also had to see that three feet of the animal were crossed and tied properly, secure for at least five minutes.

In the championship matches of old, each roper was given three steers and the 15 men with the best averages were given an additional two steers each. The five-steer average decided the championship.

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While you are here we invite you to try Gandy's Fine Dairy Products

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**WELCOME  
To The  
22nd ANNUAL RODEO  
BIG SPRING  
August 3, 4, 5, 6**

**Texas Electric Service Company**

R. L. BEALE, Manager



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AND COWGIRLS COMPETING FOR  
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We Extend A Hand Of Friendship To Wel-  
come All Rodeo Visitors. We Are Sure You  
Will Enjoy Each Performance . . . And  
Will Agree With Us: That This Rodeo Is  
One Of The Finest Shows In West Texas.

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Places Of Business. We'd Like To Meet  
You And Personally Welcome You To Big  
Spring!



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# Takes An Expert To Judge Rodeo

The rodeo, like most other sports, has its judges or referees too. And rodeo judging is no job for an amateur.

The judge is usually a former rodeo contestant himself and thoroughly familiar with all the action occurring in the arena. Because of his familiarity with the ring action, he rates the contestants severely.

Although the contestant sometimes disagrees with the judges, he will rarely question their decisions. Each contestant knows that the judge knows the rodeo trade inside and out and an expert in the business of judging.

It is up to the judge to see that each contestant gets a fair and impartial opportunity to show what he can do in the particular event and the prize money is the stake. The judges are also aware of the importance of his decisions and will do every thing possible to see that the riders receive everything that is due them.

Judges are stationed at various vantage points in the arena, an arrangement that provides a keen-eyed view of every angle of per-

forming by the contestants. They judge by both the point system and the time system.

From the time the wildly bucking bronc jet-propels itself out of a chute the rider and his bronc are watched closely by the judges until the ride is ended. It may end with the rider left hard-fast to the dirt and glowing at a victorious bronc, or the rider may be whisked to a pick-up horse when the time-horn blows.

When a calf rushes out of a gate with a horse-borne roper fast in pursuit the judges tensely await the result. The roper's task, with the aid of a trained roping horse, is to rope, throw and tie the fighting calf as quickly as he can. Three legs have to be secured and every split-second counts.

When a judge's flag is waved in a circle over his head, the timers click their stop-watches.

For every dollar won by a contestant at one of the events, a point is added to his season score. The point system applies to bronc and steer riding and the time system is applied to all other main events.

# Many Have Labored For Local Rodeo

Men who started the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo have been tenaciously faithful since the first show was held as an informal affair back in 1933.

On the first board were Tom Good, Marion Edwards, Jess Slaughter, R. V. Middleton, Harry Lees, Ira Driver, the late Jess Hudson, and H. Noble Read. Good was the president, Edwards (and later Slaughter), vice president; and Hudson, secretary-treasurer. Slaughter became the arena director and Edwards worked the chutes to see that the show kept moving. Superintendent of livestock, until his death, was Rowan Settles.

When Read retired from the board, he was succeeded by Charles Creighton, who, over the years, has been one of the chief workers.

Driver became secretary and Bob Middleton the treasurer. Subsequently, when Hudson moved from the city, E. T. (Gene) O'Daniel, came on the board. Toots Mansfield in the meantime had settled in Big Spring and he came on the board taking the place vacated by Slaughter. H. W. Wright served on the board for one or two years.

There has never been a show in which Marion Edwards has not taken an active and leading role. In 1949, the death of his father, W. P. Edwards, removed him from part of the actual production, but he had worked long in preparing for the event. Moving quietly and unobtrusively is Harry Lees, who has over the years more or less looked after the physical properties. R. V. Middleton and Ira Driver worked like Trojans, too, in handling the paperwork and financial affairs. Good, of course, has been taking part in all of them.

When Driver retired from business, he also decided to lay aside his duties in the association. In 1953 the association made his youngest son, E. P. Driver, secretary of the organization, maintaining a family tie. Another son, Curtis, had been actively engaged in the production for years, and he and E. P. formed a wild cow milking team that drew the sobriquet of "Gold Dust Twins."

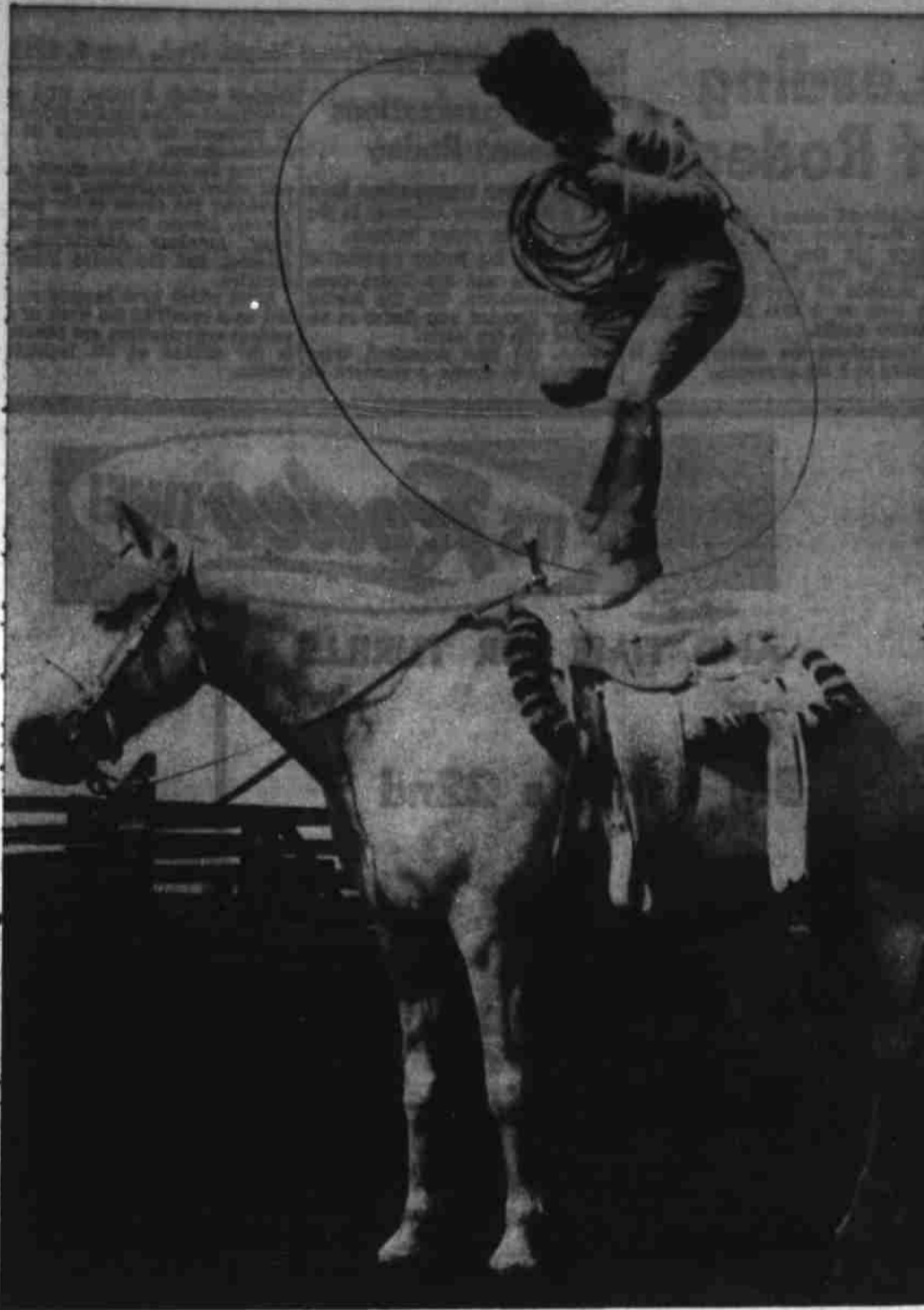
# Youth Discovers Snakes Profitable And A Lot Of Fun

FRANKLIN, Va. (AP) — Joe Chase, a 16-year-old schoolboy, says snakes are fascinating, enjoyable and profitable.

The female members of Joe's family despise his hobby which he has pursued since the age of 9. He says he has caught thousands of snakes, harmless and dangerous, and that they bring from 50 cents to \$10 each for zoos and private snake farms.

He has received help from Dr. W. M. Mann, director of the Washington, D. C., zoo and from Dr. Morris M. Cochran of the Smithsonian Institute of Natural History. They plan to get him into some leading herpetological societies to continue reptile study.

Ever bitten? By some non-dangerous snakes, yes, but only a narrow escape with a poisonous snake. A big cottonmouth moccasin struck his hand once but the fangs hit his finger nails and didn't puncture the skin.



CHARLENE CALVIN BEALE AND "SHUG" She's Top Roping and Roman Rider Attraction

# Any Seat In Rodeo Bowl Gives Unobstructed View

No matter where you may sit, you still have an unobstructed view of everything that may happen in the arena of the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo Association bowl.

The plant is a bowl type in the strictest sense, and even light standards are back of the bowl to prevent blocking of the view. There are simply no posts, standards, columns, etc., to interfere with a sweeping view of all that takes place.

Some seats may be preferred to others because of proximity to the chutes, but there is no such thing as a bad seat anywhere in the entire plant.

Because of its concrete and stone construction very little maintenance work is required to keep it in perfect order but for several days now, and right up until the time of the opening performance tonight crews will be going over the "bowl" and the grounds putting them in tiptop shape for the big show which opens at 8 p.m.

The plant was constructed in 1949. That spring the rodeo association had sold its ground in eastern Big Spring when residential construction threatened to engulf it. As summer wore on, there was talk of skipping the annual rodeo because of lack of facilities or the improbability that any could be provided.

However, contracts were let for the construction of a concrete bowl in a ravine area east of the Ellis Homes project. There the association had purchased some 30 acres of ground. Since then 10 acres have

been sold to the school and a couple leased permanently to the Howard County Fair Association. This still leaves a parking area easily ample to accommodate the big crowds which annually flock to the show.

The huge horseshoe, which has its ramps pitched on such a grade as to prevent any person in front from blocking the view of those behind, seats 7,500. In addition, it has 98 boxes, all of which will mean that a jammed packed session will take care of 8,000 to 8,500 spectators.

The boxes are arranged right along the simple railing which swings around the concrete wall that encloses the entire arena. They offer a perfect view of surroundings without lessening the desirability of the seats immediately behind.

Line-of-sight is direct to the arena from any point in the plant so that everything may be seen. Only when something happened jam against the arena wall would it be obscured to patrons on that side. Since animals give the retainer a respectable berth, action is seldom if ever pitched in this imaginary corridor.

The arena is arranged so that stock pens and the judges stand block the open end of the horseshoe. This puts the various chutes in easy view of all fans. Calf ropers and other riders and specialty performers have center of stage feature when they emerge into the arena.

A cattle trap is located at the

south end of the bowl so that animals may be held and returned to the main pens without disrupting the show. A band stand is provided on top of this enclosure.

Light standards are allocated back and above the last seats in the bowl. This gives perfect illumination not only to performers, but to spectators as well. Concession stand are nearby but removed from the plant itself. Ample rest room facilities are available.

Rodeo officials have at their disposal, too, the facilities of the Howard County Fair Association, which has two large permanent, fire-proof buildings adjacent to the rodeo bowl. These may answer a lot of problems about horse quarters, storage, other activities, etc.

This year, the association has installed 47 new stables to accommodate the mounts of rodeo contestants. That brings the total to 87.

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## Colborn Is Leading Producer Of Rodeos

The producer of the Big Spring Rodeo and Cowboy Reunion, Everett E. Colborn is a man of many accomplishments.

Seemingly a retiring man, he has risen to the top of the rodeo profession through perseverance and a shrewd business sense.

Born in Idaho, Colborn spent his early years on his father's cattle ranches, later becoming a partner with his father in the cattle business. From this beginning he turned to the rodeo business. He first put on small rodeos in the Northwest during the summer months and returned to ranching in the winter.

In the mid-thirties Colborn and his partners bought the largest rodeo outfit in the country from the late Col. W. T. Johnson of San Antonio, and Colborn became active manager. Since that time he has wasted no effort in improving his string of bucking stock and the quality of his show. His rodeos range from coast to coast and from border to border, among them being Houston and San Antonio, Boston, Mass., Detroit, Mich., Fort Madison, Iowa and the "kingpin" of them all—Madison Square Garden in New York.

Colborn lives just outside Dublin, Texas, on his personal ranch, from which he oversees the vast

Lightning U spread where he keeps all the rodeo stock. At home he keeps his fine personal mount "Blaze," some fine cutting horses, a number of quarter horse colts as well as a fine herd of beef-master cattle.

Throughout the country he is known as a top showman.

### Two Organizations Influence Rodeo

Two cowboy organizations have had a tremendous influence in the growth of the rodeo business.

They are the Rodeo Association of America and the Rodeo Cowboys Association. The Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo is affiliated with the latter.

RAA, the first organized, was developed to create a standard of

conduct within a rodeo. RCA was established with a similar objective, to promote the standards of organized rodeos.

From the RAA have sprung several other organizations to aid in spreading the ideals of the parent agency. Among them are the Cowboys' Amateur Association of America and the Rodeo Fans of America.

Rules which have become standard as a result of the work of the various organizations are observed in the arenas of all legitimate rodeos.



Everett Colborn  
Producer Of Big Spring Rodeo

### Contract Performers Important To Rodeos

A vital part of any rodeo is the

work of the contract performers—the clowns, trained horse and other acts, trick and fancy riders and ropers.

In addition to putting on the spe-

cial acts between competitive events, these performers often participate in the regular events. Throughout their performances they are subjected to the same

hazards as are the rodeo contestants. During their exhibitions, their horses can easily trip and fall, or the riders may lose balance and get trampled.



**Rodeo** time in Big Spring!

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### All RCA Shows Share In Naming World Champion

One thing which may puzzle rodeo fans is how many communities each lay claim to having the "world's championship rodeo."

The answer is simple. They are just that, because points earned in rodeos approved by the Rodeo Cowboys Association count to the annual championship chase. A dollar earned in prize and purse money at an approved show counts a point toward the championship rating.

For seven years Toots Mansfield, Big Spring, was winner of the calf roping championship, and he is back on the circuit in a semi-active basis this year for the first time in many seasons. Mansfield is up there among the top contenders for the crown.

Toots also was the first president of the Rodeo Cowboys Association and was for many years head of the organization. He resigned when he became an inactive participant, contending that only those who are actually making the circuits should serve as president of the organization.



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